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65% turnout for Meretz primaries

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE votes in Meretz's primary election were still being counted late last night and final results were only expected before dawn this morning. Meretz is to present its new Knesset list at a press conference at 11 a.m. today.

The voter turnout was estimated at 65 percent, despite the stormy weather which Meretz leaders feared would deter many voters from venturing out to the polling stations.

Senior party sources predicted last night that Meretz's new Knesset list would be almost identical to its present one - with the exception of retiring Ministers Shulamit Aloni and Yair Tzaban - providing the party maintains at least 10 seats.

Meretz's 205 polling booths throughout the country closed at 10 p.m. and the votes were counted at Ramat Efal.

The counting took all night due to the complicated voting system, in which party members were required to vote for 30 candidates on three different lists - the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam, and Shmini.

The primaries were further overshadowed by public opinion polls' predictions of a drastic drop of up to 50% in Meretz's power in the next Knesset.

Meretz chairman Environment Minister Yossi Sarid arrived at the counting center in Ramat Efal last night after voting at the party's branch on Brenner Street. He expressed optimism as to Meretz's results in the general elections, despite the pessimistic polls, because, "More than any other party, Meretz has realized its platform and commitments to the public."

He was accompanied by his wife, Dorit, who had prepared the list of recommended candidates - and who brought Sarid's identity card, which he had forgotten at home.

"Don't you know that she is the one who tells me what to do?" Sarid joked with journalists at the polling station.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, Meretz's former chairwoman who retired from the party a few weeks ago, came to cast her ballot at Meretz's Herzliya branch.

She called on all party members to use their right to vote for the party's new leadership and Knesset members, expressing distaste for election "deals" of any sort.

Referring to Meretz's drop in the polls, Aloni noted that, when she headed the Meretz list in the last elections, the party got 12 mandates.

"But I believe Meretz will recover its strength," she said. "The public will realize the need for a strong, fighting left-wing party which will serve as a compass for the public's conscience and for the principles we believe in."

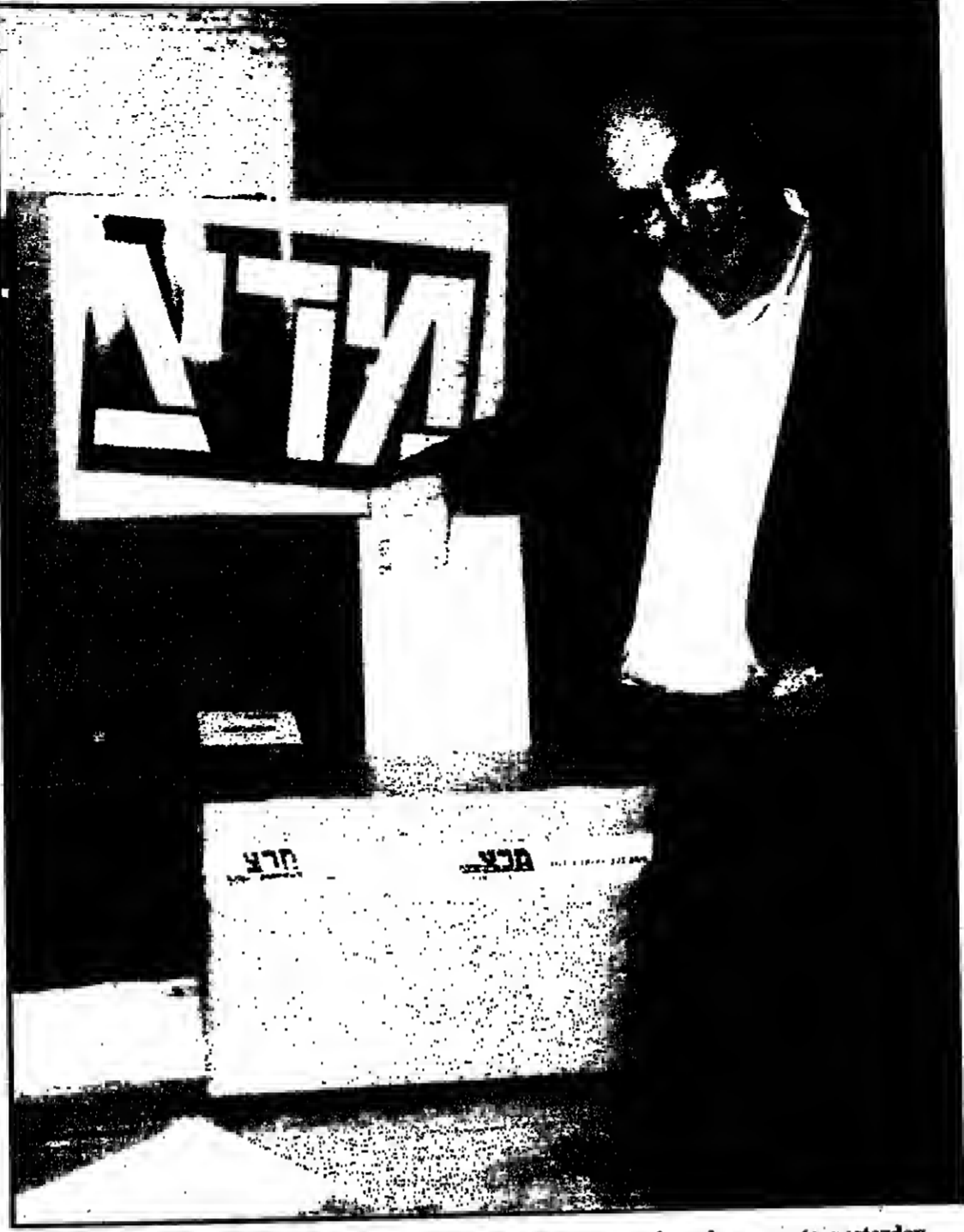
Although she, too, forgot to bring her identity card, after a brief consultation the election committee allowed Aloni to vote. The committee also had to explain the intricate voting system to her.

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Meretz leader Yossi Sarid places his ballot during the party's primary vote yesterday. (Dina Osnovskiy/Israel Sun)

Peres: Closure extended until terror threat ends

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres notified the cabinet yesterday that he is extending the closure as long as there are warnings of impending terror attacks and the Palestinian Authority has not tracked down wanted fugitives.

It is generally assumed that the closure will be maintained until at least after the elections.

Peres did announce, however, that the closure will no longer extend to Palestinian fishermen, who fish off the Gaza coast.

Peres also said food and medical products are now entering the Gaza Strip uninterrupted.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the closure should not be universally imposed, and Palestinian workers who have a long proven record of nonviolence should be permitted in.

Only Hamas can benefit from a system of 70 percent unemployment in the territories, Sarid said.

Western diplomats said that apart from being able to work in Israel, Palestinian unemployment in the territories has increased since Israel has reduced the amount of cement allowed into Gaza by 90 percent, paralyzing Gaza's construction industry.

The amount of cement was reduced because it takes the IDF a long time to check every truck entering the territories.

Sarid also complained that sick Palestinians are denied entry for treatment.

"A thousand times I've raised the issue of medical treatment during a time of closure. A thousand times I was assured this was being taken care of, but nothing was being taken care of," Sarid declared.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said that it is precisely humanitarian provisions such as aiding the sick and enabling food-stuffs to enter the territories which are the best guarantee that the closure will not be short-term, but a durable long-term policy evolving into separation, complete with borders.

Cabinet approves Yatom as new head of Mossad

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Mossad came in from the cold yesterday, as the name of its new head, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, was not only approved by the cabinet, but is now permitted to be made public.

The break in the taboo came in the aftermath of the *Ha'aretz* daily's decision to disregard censorship last week, which banned publication of the head of the Mossad's name as a state secret.

Ha'aretz said it is anachronistic for the Israeli public not to know his name, which has been published abroad and is known by Israel's enemies.

Yatom, 51, who served 33 years in the IDF, is completing his assignment as military attaché in Prime Minister Shimon Peres (the same job he performed for his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin). Yatom also served two stints as head of the Central Command and was also head of the IDF Planning Branch.

Early in his career, he was a member of the General Staff's elite commando unit, Sayeret Matkal. In that capacity Yatom participated in the storming of a hijacked Sabena airliner in 1972, where hostages were freed. Both Foreign



Danny Yatom will take over the Mossad after 33 years of IDF service. (IDF Spokesman)

Minister Ehud Barak and Likud leader MK Binyamin Netanyahu were in the unit at the time.

Peres also broke with another tradition recently by announcing the name of the new head of the General Security Service, former navy chief Ami Ayalon.

Israeli official to visit Pollard

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

JONATHAN Pollard was due to receive his first visit from an Israeli official since being sentenced to life imprisonment for passing navy documents in Israel a decade ago.

At press time, an official of the consulate-general in Atlanta - Eitan Surkis-Almog - was en route to the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, where Pollard is incarcerated. An embassy official said visits to Israeli inmates in the Diaspora are common before Passah.

Pollard's lawyer, Larry Dub, recently approached Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich with the request, on the grounds that Pollard was granted Israeli citizenship last year, the official said.

A senior Clinton administration official said that President Bill Clinton has no plans to grant clemency to Pollard.

Lenn Panetta, White House chief of staff, said on CNN's *Late Edition* program that "our position on Pollard has not changed."

He said the Almog's visit to Pollard was arranged through prison officials, not the White House.

"I don't think it represents a change" in position, Panetta said.

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Barak favored to top today's Labor poll

MICHAL YUDELMAN

A TIGHT race between Interior Minister Haim Ramon and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak for the No. 2 slot in the Labor List behind Prime Minister Shimon Peres is expected to highlight today's party primaries.

Labor is expected to fire the opening shot in its election campaign tonight at its primaries' tabulating center at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds, with the slogan "A strong Israel with Peres."

According to unconfirmed reports, this slogan was the favorite among Labor's campaign staff. It will be published in newspaper ads from today on, along with other slogans, to gauge the public's reaction.

The most intense battle in Labor's primaries is being waged between Ramon and Barak, both of whom are determined to be elected No. 2 on Labor's list.

The tension between the two peaked last night with the release of a Rafi and Hanoch Smith poll on Channel 1's *Mabat*, grading Barak as second on the list, with Ramon third.

They are followed in the poll by Yossi Beilin, Uzi Baram, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Avraham Shohat, Efraim Sneh, David Libai, Ori Orr, Ora Namir, Shevah

Weiss, Moshe Shahal, Hagai Morom, and Dalia Itzik.

Some 250,000 Labor Party members are expected to vote in the primaries today, in 1,200 polling booths at 800 locations throughout the country.

Peres and most primary candidates plan to arrive for the vote count, where the slogan will be presented, probably together with a campaign jingle, in a media extravaganza.

Labor's campaign, which will officially begin only after the primaries, will focus on convincing voters of the strength and security which Peres represents and intends to preserve after the elections.

Exhausted primaries candidates feverishly continued making telephone calls and swings throughout the country for meetings with party members yesterday, in last-minute efforts to improve their chances.

Most candidates said the primary system is flawed and promised that if elected, they would act to have it changed to open primaries.

Over the past few days, Peres and other Labor ministers have called on party activists and "vote contractors" to elect candidates of Sephardi origin,

especially Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan and Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami to the Knesset list.

According to certain public opinion surveys, the first nine candidates on Labor's list are expected to be of Ashkenazi origin, except for slot seven, which is reserved for party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli, who was born in Tunis.

Iraqi-born Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is ranked No. 10 in the surveys.

The party leadership fears that an inadequate representation of Sephardi - especially Moroccan - candidates will be detrimental to its election chances.

Lists of recommended candidates were also circulated by various bodies, such as the unions of the Israel Electric Corporation, Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael, and Egged.

Ramon's name was excluded from the IAI list. Senior Labor activists in the Histadrut also threatened to "take revenge" on Ramon for "ruining" the Histadrut by excluding him from the list of recommended candidates issued to thousands of Histadrut activists.

MK Gedalya Gal's name does not appear on the IEC list, because he opposed the Electricity Law.

Labor List, Page 2

US urging Morocco's Hassan to visit Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE US has pledged to urge Morocco's King Hassan II to visit here shortly, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said yesterday. He denied such a visit aims to bolster Labor's electoral prospects.

"[Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert] Pelletreau said he would try his best to bring King Hassan here. We have not heard yet, but hope to get an answer in the next few days," Dayan said, adding he met with Pelletreau during President Bill Clinton's visit two weeks ago.

Dayan denied a Hassan visit would be aimed at bolstering Labor with floating voters, even though he was reported to have said a few days ago such a visit should be held before the elections. It is believed Yitzhak Rabin attracted many voters of Moroccan origin in 1992.

"A visit by Hassan transcends politics," Dayan insisted. "Rather, it would be a sign of normalization with the Arabs, which is needed to save the peace process. We have to combine a fight against terrorism with greater normalization. I also told Pelletreau that leaders or government ministers from any Arab country should visit, not just Hassan. I told him [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak should also visit, as should his ministers."

'CIA can't stop Libyan chemical weapons plant'

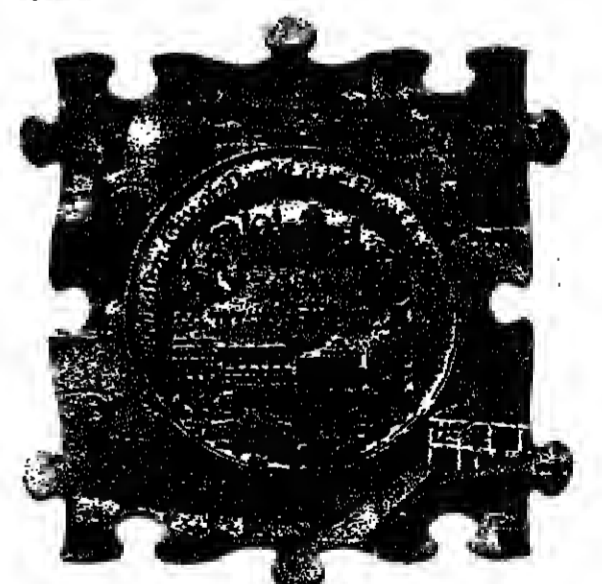
NEW YORK (Reuters) - Libya is building a facility described as the "world's largest underground chemical weapons plant" and the Central Intelligence Agency cannot stop it, a report in *Time* magazine said yesterday.

The plant is being built in the side of a mountain near the town of Tarhunan and only a direct nuclear hit on top of the mountain could destroy it, *Time* said, quoting CIA sources.

Time reported the plant could be operational by 2000.

"You can never stop anything like this," a US intelligence source said. "You only slow it down and buy time."

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Likud primary tomorrow

THE Likud's first Knesset primaries will begin at 7 a.m. tomorrow. More than 170,000 party members will be eligible to pick from among 118 candidates, 73 in nationwide races and 45 in regional ones.

In addition to being the party's first primary — replacing the election of septets by the party central committee — it will also be the first time a computerized voting system is used.

Computer terminals will replace paper ballots, which had to be transported, watched, counted by hand, and then often recounted in a system which lent itself to numerous abuses and fraud attempts.

In 80 localities, the Likud will place 572 voting stations where the voter only needs to touch the computer screen, on which the name of the candidate of his choice appears. Each voter will be asked to select 20 names from among the 73 in the nationwide contest and one from the region in which he resides.

The computerized system accounts for half of the NIS 5 mil-

SARAH HONIG

lion price tag for the primaries. The payoff will be in the anticipated swift publication of results. The polling stations will close at 10 p.m. and around midnight, the central computer terminal at Likud headquarters is expected to

Levy's brother Maxim, MK David Magen, former ambassador to France Yehuda Lanke, former Likud MK Michael Kleiner, and Levy cronies Ya'acov Bardugo and Moti Mishani are expected to be selected.

Several Druse Likud members yesterday asked the Nazareth

Likud primary list

1. Binyamin Netanyahu 2. David Levy 3. Rafael Eitan 4. National list 5. National list 6. National list 7. National list 8. Tsomet 9. Geshet 10. National list 11. National list 12. National list 13. National list 14. Geshet 15. Tsomet 16. National list 17. National list 18. National list 19. National list (woman) 20. Tsomet 21. Geshet 22. National list 23. National list 24. National list 25. National list 26. Regional list 27. Regional list 28. Regional list 29. Regional list 30. Geshet 31. Tsomet 32. Regional list 33. National list (woman) 34. Regional list 35. Regional list 36. Tsomet 37. Geshet 38. National list 39. Regional list 40. Regional list 41. Geshet 42. Tsomet

present the party's new Knesset list.

Geshet also will decide upon its candidates tomorrow. Its leader David Levy will convene 200 "Geshet founders" to elect the representatives to be inserted onto the Likud slate.

District Court to issue an injunction against the primaries because the slot accorded to the minorities' representative had been moved down on the list due to the agreements with Tsomet and Geshet. The minorities' candidate is to receive the 46th slot.

Poll: United religious list would win 18-19 seats

A UNITED religious front, comprising all the religious parties, would garner 18-19 seats, compared to the 16 they have now, according to a Geocartography Institute poll released yesterday.

The poll, commissioned by a group called Supporters of the United Religious Front, will be presented to the rabbinic leaders of the parties, who are tentatively scheduled to meet later this week, said David Bruckenthal, the group's spokesman.

The survey, carried out Thursday among 766 people from all sectors of the population, asked: "If all the rabbis and leaders of the religious and baredi parties would today announce a united front and ask the public to vote for a large, united religious party, would you vote for that party instead of the party you intend to vote for in the elections?"

Some 15.4 percent said they would definitely vote for such a party, and another 6.4% said they would likely do so.

According to Bruckenthal, the poll could translate into 18-19 Knesset seats.

The idea of a united religious front has been welcomed by much of the National Religious Party, by Agudat Yisrael's Council of Sages, and by Shas, which was the first to publicly back the idea in February. Only Degel Hatorah has been lukewarm to the idea.

HERB KEINON

Aguda sources, however, say there is a large gap between publicly supporting the idea, so as not to appear against something as popular as "unity," and forcefully pushing the notion.

A second survey, going into more depth into how the religious public views such a united front, is scheduled to be released on

'Not right or left'

"Not right or left, we are with the leaders of the generation," begins Shas's new campaign song. "We will follow our teacher and rabbi, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef."

According to a Shas leader, the party has already planned several rallies, and its campaign will be "massive."

Shas will officially open its campaign next week with a convention in Jerusalem, under the auspices of Yosef, its spiritual leader, and Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri.

The party's council of sages is expected to decide on its Knesset list during Pessah.

Tim

Wednesday. The Aguda source said that there still is a chance that the

Harel undecided whether to run on Third Way list

THE Third Way remains racked by uncertainty and tension following last Wednesday's selection of its list of Knesset candidates. Who the directorate met yesterday morning to discuss polling procedures, Yehuda Harel, elected No. 2 on the list, made only a brief appearance and did not state his plans for the future.

Harel's threat last week not to run for the Knesset left the party reeling at a time when it was meant to be entering full gear for the elections. Harel, a founder member, is considered a major vote puller on the party's main issue: fighting possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Harel has stopped short of saying he will not run, but told party activists: "I haven't decided whether to take part."

He is apparently considering resigning from the political race to concentrate on the struggle for the

LIAT COLLINS

Golan Heights outside the Knesset. Harel is unhappy with the composition of the list he has to run with. He promoted candidates such as Eli Malka and Alex Labotsky, who failed to win realistic slots. He is also at odds with MK Emanuel Zissman, who reached the No. 3 position despite the fact that the party's polling committee placed him seventh on its list of recommended candidates.

Zissman has demanded the voting procedures be inspected to check whether in fact he or Harel should be in the second slot after party leader MK Avigdor Kahalani. Harel had 96 votes to Zissman's 93, but the manner in which the final results were reached involved complicated calculations.

Kahalani is trying to defuse the tension, saying the voting is in the past and the party must move

forward.

"There's a good list: Yehuda in second place, Emanuel in third. And with this list we must look to the future," said Kahalani.

Party officials are playing down Zissman's suggestion of foul play in the polling booths. "Everything is stored away for safe keeping. If he wants to look at the voting slips, the safe will be opened up for him. He hasn't yet demanded to see it," one official said.

Zissman said he had been "very hurt" by his low position on the recommended list, given his Knesset record. He said, however, he would not consider resigning over the issue. "This isn't what's important. The Golan Heights, Jordan Valley, and Jerusalem are what matter. On these we have the same stand and the same aims. I'm sure we'll all be able to work together to achieve our common purpose."

Eilat-Akaba bus service opens today

THE first direct public bus service from Eilat to Akaba is to begin today, with a fare of NIS 4.50, but passengers will have to pay a good deal more than that if they actually want to get from Eilat to Akaba and back.

The Israeli buses are to be operated by United Tours, which won a Transportation Ministry tender. They are to go from the United Tours terminal in Eilat, stopping

HAIM SHAPIRO

at the hotel area, the airport and the new commercial center. From the Arava crossing they are to continue to Akaba with no stops along the way.

In addition to the NIS 4.50 fare, passengers will have to pay a NIS 45 crossing fee en route from Israel to Jordan.

On the way back, they will have

to pay a \$6 Jordanian crossing fee.

Most of the passengers will also have to acquire a Jordanian visa, a matter of varying cost and difficulty. Israelis without foreign passports, who do not make their arrangements through a tour organizer, will apparently still have to arrange for their visas at the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv, at a cost of close to \$50.

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Likud primary a hopeless race

MOST of the runners in the Likud primary know they are in a hopeless race. The prospects of the great majority of the candidates are simply pitiful, regardless of their qualifications or the outlay of money, energy, time, and imagination.

Theirs was a difficult, crowded race to begin with; but after Tsomet and Geshet were taken aboard, there remains very little on the Likud list for all too many contestants to vie for.

If we accept the premise that the first 42 slots on the Likud slate can be considered safe, and if we then subtract all the slots handed over to the new partners and all those reserved for specific sectors, we find a minuscule remainder. Even this is trimmed further if we consider the two types of contests involved.

As in the Labor Party, there are nationwide and local races. The more prestigious and far more gru-

eling races are the nationwide ones, and it is from the hardy survivors of the national contest that new ministers can be expected to be picked. The winners nationwide will be the major league, whereas the local contests will provide the Knesset's next batch of backbenchers.

So let's get down to elementary arithmetic. From the original 42 we subtract three slots right off, already won by the bloc's three leaders — Binyamin Netanyahu, David Levy, and Rafael Eitan; in that order. Tsomet and Geshet will then each get six more slots. At this point we are left with 27 Likud slots up for grabs.

But while the Likud had reserved safe slots for women, new immigrants, minorities, and young candidates, the pacts with Tsomet and Geshet have pushed most of these slots beyond the category of a sure seat. Only two of

ANALYSIS SARAH HONIG

the women's slots remain safe. These slots are still contestable, but can only go to female candidates. They are not open to all, which leaves only 25 seats available to everyone.

However, Netanyahu has already warned that there may be more tampering with the slots, because of complaints by minorities and immigrants. After it's all over, the winners may find themselves even further back than they imagined.

But before any more horrors befall the beleaguered Likud candidates, nine of the remaining 25 seats go to regional races. This leaves a mere 16 seats in the nationwide contest, open to anyone from any sector or gender.

Since there are 73 candidates in the nationwide primary, there are bound to be many disappointed contestants on Wednesday morning, including some of the Likud's

recent big-name acquisitions and members of the outgoing Knesset, who will fall by the wayside. These will be joined by many losers in the equally crowded regional races.

By the end of this week there will be plenty of malcontented Likud activists and MKs who didn't make it. They could well become sources of dissonance just when the election campaign demands maximum harmony, striking very jarring notes about all those seats going to Tsomet and Geshet freeloaders. Some losers could do the Likud much harm on election eve.

This is probably why Netanyahu floated the Norwegian law balloon. He didn't say outright that he would adopt the notion of ministers resigning their parliamentary seats to make way for those down the line, rather than should he win the premiership, he would give this option weighty consider-

Netanyahu to meet Jordan's Hassan tomorrow

LIKUD leader Binyamin Netanyahu will take a break from Tuesday's party primaries to meet with Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti in Akaba.

The initiative for the meeting came from the Jordanians, and the invitation was issued to Netanyahu several weeks ago.

The Foreign Ministry is report-

edly fuming because it only found out about the meeting from the Jordanians yesterday.

Likud sources, however, said there is no obligation for the party to seek Foreign Ministry permission for any meeting that does not break the law and that advance consultation could have resulted in Labor seeking to cancel the

meeting.

Netanyahu will begin Tuesday by touring primary polling stations. He will then be picked up at Ben-Gurion Airport by a plane sent from Jordan to ferry him to Akaba and return him. He will then resume touring the polling stations. Later, he will go to party headquarters to await the

results. Netanyahu has conferred with King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan several times, both before and after the signing of the peace treaty.

Yesterday, Netanyahu met with MK David Levy again, this time to consider what role Levy would take in the election campaign. Netanyahu wants him to participate actively.

Labor's Jerusalem strongman allowed to run

EVELYN GORDON and MICHAL YUDLEMAN

THE Supreme Court last night ruled that Labor's Jerusalem branch secretary, Haim Cohen, may run in the party primaries today, despite his conviction for theft and bribery in 1981.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivili, who support Cohen's Knesset candidacy, were relieved at the ruling. They had considered putting off the elections in the Jerusalem district until it was handed down.

Cohen, Labor's strongman in the Jerusalem district and the party's prime "vote contractor," is running against MK Dalia Itzik and Tsali Reshef. His election to a realistic place on Labor's Knesset list is now considered certain.

Cohen was convicted of bribery for accepting paid vacations from various financial institutions from 1981-85, when he headed the Jerusalem Municipality's union. He was acquitted by the Jerusalem District Court, but in 1993 the Supreme Court overturned the acquittal and convicted him.

A group of young Labor Party members called Tzifit '96 then asked the party tribunal to eject Cohen from Labor, or at least prevent him from running in the primaries. The petition was based on a party rule that permits the court to expel someone convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. However, the party court rejected the petition.

Tzifit '96 then appealed to the Jerusalem District Court, which said the party court had no authority to rule that Cohen's crime did not involve moral turpitude.

Cohen then appealed to the Supreme Court, denying his crime involved moral turpitude and noting it had been committed more than 10 years ago. He also argued that the public, and not the courts, should decide in the primaries whether he should represent it.

Police blamed for Taibe soccer riot

THE police are collecting videotapes of a Saturday soccer match in Taibe, during which shouts of "Death to the Jews" and cries of support for terrorist bomber Yihye Ayyash were heard.

Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye blamed police insensitivity in arresting three fans for inciting the crowd and leading to violence. Police said three brothers were arrested.

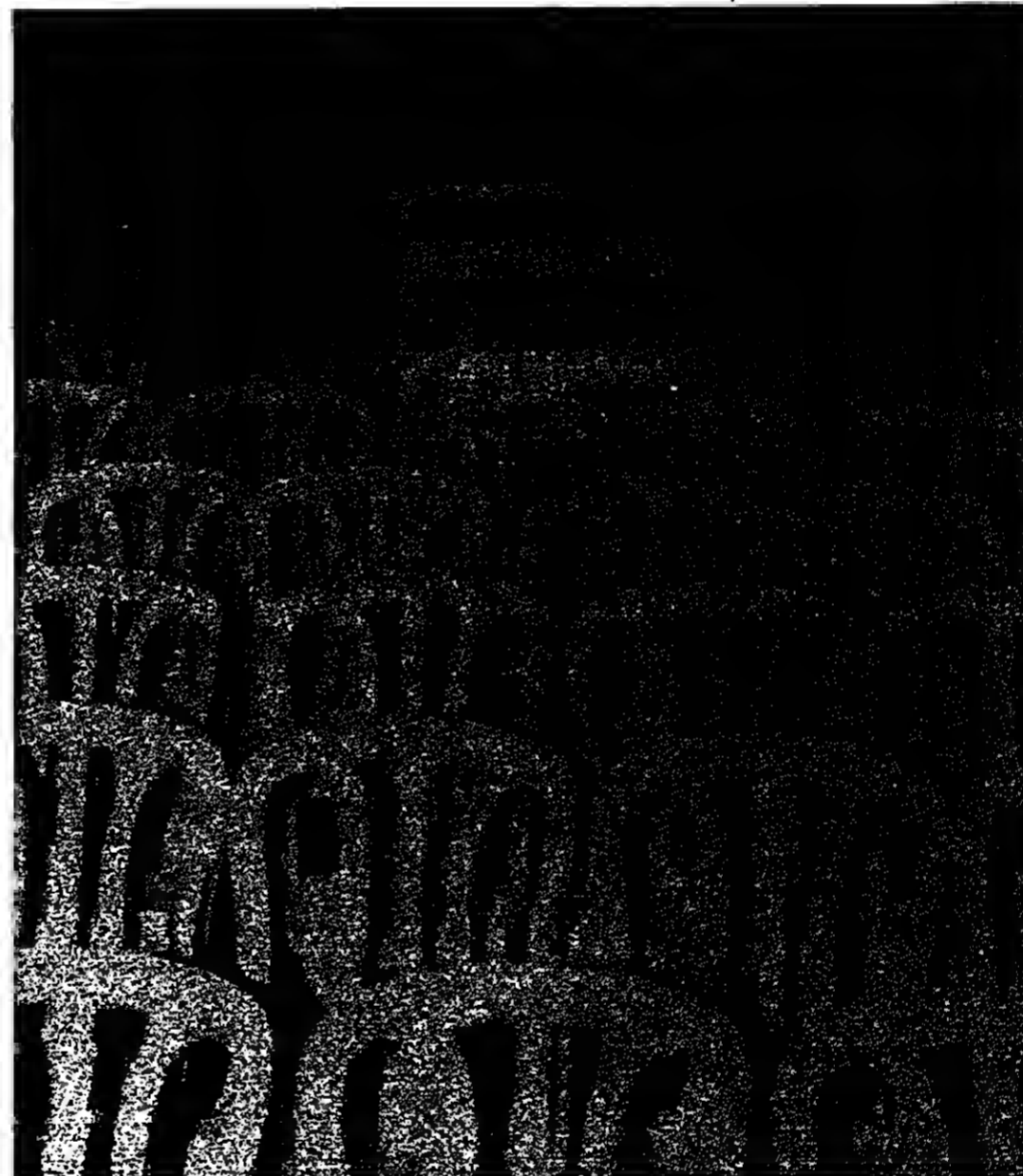
Tim

Jordanian succeeds in naming son 'Yitzhak Rabin'

A Jordanian man has won his battle to name his son after slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to demonstrate support for the peace treaty, the *Jordan Times* said yesterday.

The newspaper said the boy had become the first Jordanian to carry the name of an Israeli leader, after the civil registration department issued a birth certificate under the name Yitzhak Rabin. "I am extremely happy," Rajai Saeed, the boy's father, said after succeeding in a quest that had drawn widespread opposition.

Reuter



A Labor Party worker yesterday finishes the chairs and starts on the signs at the party's Tel Aviv Fair Grounds primaries center. (Dan Ovedyev/Israel Sun)

Labor's primary list

1: Shimon Peres 2: National list 3: National list 4: National list 5: National list 6: National list 7: Nissim Zivili 8: National list 9: Reserved for a woman 10: National list 11: National list 12: National list 13: Central district 14: Sharon-Shomron district 15: National list 16: Haifa district 17: Minorities district 18: Reserved for a woman 19: Tel Aviv district 20: United Kibbutz Movement district 21: National list 22: Dan district 23: Northern district 24: National list 25: Jerusalem district 26: Moshavim district 27: National list 28: Southern district 29: New immigrant 30: Druse 31: Central district 32: Haifa district 33: Sharon-Shomron district 34: National list 35: Dan district 37: Reserved for a woman 38: Tel Aviv district 39: Jerusalem district 40: UKM district 41: National list 42: Northern district 43: Southern district 44: National list 45: National list 46: Moshavim district Six slots are reserved for women, one in each 10, up to 44 on the list.

Islamic Movement to run in elections

THE Israeli Islamic Movement yesterday decided to participate in the Knesset elections and to lead efforts to forge a united Arab list.

The decision, which marks a major turning point in the history of the movement, was taken in the early hours of the morning by its supreme body, the consultative committee.

Negotiations with other political parties and organizations in the Arab sector will begin soon, sources said.

The Islamic Movement, which is reported to have widespread grassroots support in the Arab sector, in the past has refrained from entering the national political arena, preferring to build up its position on the municipal level.

Yesterday's decision, in essence, means the movement is now set to help create a new polit-

DAVID RUDGE

ical entity in the Arab sector. It aims to use its considerable political clout to help bring together parties and personalities who would otherwise remain apart, in particular the newly-formed list headed by Dr. Ahmed Tibi's Arab Movement for Change and the Arab Democratic Party of MK Abdul Wahab Darawsh.

Islamic Movement spokesman Ibrahim Samsur said the movement would act as a catalyst to bring all Arab parties, "old and new," into the same fold.

He noted that having candidates from the movement head the list might make it easier for personalities from other groups or parties to accept, thereby avoiding a potential dispute over who should hold the top position.

"We will find the right formula to bring them together, and we will do everything possible to ensure this will succeed. In fact, we came to the conclusion that the chances of forging a united list were minimal unless the movement played a central role," said Samsur.

"We are not living in fantasy land, and realistically we would expect to win about half of the vote in the Arab sector and have a bloc of between five or six MKs in the next Knesset."

"Such a bloc would play an important role in the new Knesset, especially at this sensitive juncture for the Arab minority in Israel, the Middle East in general, and the Palestinian people in particular," he added.

Holly Hunter to spend Oscar night in Israel

OSCAR-WINNING actress Holly Hunter won't be in Hollywood for the upcoming Academy Awards ceremony. Instead, she will pick up her next prize here.

Hunter, who arrived in Tel Aviv yesterday, will receive an Israeli acting prize this week for her per-

formance as a police detective searching for a serial killer in the movie *Copycat*.

At a dinner at Tel Aviv's Planet Hollywood restaurant, Hunter appeared at a loss for words. "I'm so, so, so, so honored and thrilled to be in Israel," she said.

Hunter, who is traveling together with the movie's director, Jon Amiel, gave the restaurant the detective badge she wore in the film along with the red suit worn by costar Sigourney Weaver.

AP

Hamas vows to attack Israel again

News agencies

HAMAS vowed yesterday to attack Israel again, saying a crackdown on Palestinian Muslim militants after recent suicide bombings in Israel would not deter it.

Hamas also said Israel's moves to counter anti-peace attacks, including the collective punishment of Palestinians, blowing up homes of suicide bombers, and the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, could only breed more violence ahead of the May 29 elections in Israel.

"These policies are only creating more humiliation and bitterness... and therefore, no one can guarantee there will be no operation before May 29," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordanian, told Reuters in an interview in Amman.

More than 1,500 activists and supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been arrested after 58 people were killed in four suicide bomb attacks in Israel in February and March.

"Hamas remains committed to its strategic and basic program of resisting the Zionist occupation," Ghosheh said.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported that the Palestinian Authority yesterday asked Jordan to urge Israel to ease the closure.

The state-run Petra News Agency said the request was made by Mahmoud Abbas, a top negotiator with Israel, to Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti.

"We asked for Jordan's help to press the Israelis to alleviate the suffering of the people in the West Bank and Gaza," Abbas told Petra after talks with Kabariti.

It said Kabariti told Abbas that "collective punishment will hamper peace efforts in the region and will fuel sentiments of hatred."

The closure has been estimated to cost the Palestinians \$6 million per day and has caused a severe shortage in basic foodstuffs and medical supplies.



Wolf Prize laureates gather at the Knesset for the 17th award ceremony of the Wolf Foundation, which Dr. Ricardo Wolf and Francisca Sabirana-Wolf founded to promote science and art. President Ezer Weizman presented each winner with \$100,000 and a certificate. Among the winners are (from left) Samuel Danishefsky, US, chemistry; Gilbert Stork, US, chemistry; Gyorgy Ligeti, Germany, arts (music); Andrew Wiles, US, mathematics; Robert Langlands, US, mathematics; Morris Schaltzer, Canada, agriculture; and Stanley Prusiner, US, medicine.

Olmert asks to ease closure

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday called for easing the closure to allow Palestinians to work at factories in the city's Atarot industrial zone, which is north of the army checkpoint for the rest of the city.

Olmert told Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna, whom he accompanied on a tour of points along Jerusalem's border with the administered territories, that many factories at Atarot are not operating because of the closure.

Olmert said he would like to see the closure eased so that Palestinian workers could be allowed to work at the A-Ram checkpoint, in a manner that would not hurt security, according to Olmert. Vilna's response to Olmert on the proposal, saying only that it would be taken into consideration.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday inaugurated a central police garage at Atarot, an act he said was meant to show the government's intentions of holding onto even outlying areas of Jerusalem, such as the industrial zone.

Talks save jobs of Beit She'an workers

DAVID RUDGE

THE jobs of nearly 200 Beit She'an workers were saved by top-level talks at the Prime Minister's Office last night, following a morning solidarity strike which shut down the town.

The Prime Minister's Office announced that the talks had resulted in a formula that would enable the Beit She'an archaeological site to be reopened to visitors as of today.

Workers have closed the site since last week to protest the proposed cutbacks.

In the talks between Histadrut officials and representatives of the workers and Zvi Alderod, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and other top officials, it was agreed to maintain the present format and number of workers at least until the end of the year, when the matter will be discussed again.

A statement issued after the talks said that any employee who wishes to resign would receive severance pay, and that the accord had been reached with the full agreement of the workers who, as a result, will immediately cease their sanctions.

Yesterday, demonstrators blocked all roads leading into Beit She'an in the morning and burned tires. Police, out in force, tried to persuade the workers to disperse peacefully. There were some scuffles until the roads were cleared, but police refrained from using force to disperse the protesters. The on-off blockage of the roads continued, despite heavy morning rain until the workers themselves dispersed to attend a rally outside city hall.

The rally was addressed by MK David Levy (Gesher), a resident of Beit She'an, and MKs Shaul Amor and David Mena (both Likud). Levy called on Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to find a solution that would enable the 180 people employed at the site to keep their jobs.

"In the absence of any new factories, industries or other places being opened in Beit She'an - and there hasn't been a new factory here for 15 years - this is one of the main sources of employment in the town," said Pnini Kabbalo, head of the Beit She'an labor council.

Egypt condemns closure

News agencies

CAIRO - Egypt yesterday condemned the closure, saying that security concerns do not justify the "repressive Israeli practices" that have barred Palestinians from their jobs and led to food shortages.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Egypt is following "with deep concern the repressive Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and its collective punishment of Palestinians, which is against international law."

"Egypt rejects such measures and practices and calls on Israel to stop resorting to them."

The statement also said the restrictions are hurting the peace process.

Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters late on Saturday that Israel's decision to freeze its withdrawal from Hebron and its moves to counter anti-peace violence could undermine Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. He added that the suicide bombings were not sufficient reason for such measures.

"The closure must stop and it must be lifted. The Palestinian Authority is already carrying out security measures. Israel's fear that some elements who can carry out violence may slip out is a different issue from starving people," Moussa said.

"We are against everything that may [harm] the economy and the situation of people in Gaza and the West Bank. The closure around the Palestinian people must stop and we will all work to prevent it from happening again," he added. Regarding the decision to delay the withdrawal from

20 soldiers killed in accidents in '95

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

LACK of discipline and aptitude is the main reason for training accidents in the IDF, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday.

Speaking at the National Defense College, Shahak said the IDF had reduced the number of accidents in 1995 compared to the previous year.

According to IDF figures, last year there were 515 accidents in the IDF, resulting in the deaths of 20 soldiers; in 1994 there were 533, with 25 fatalities. Of last year's 159 training accidents, seven resulted in deaths; five in the air force and one each in the navy and ground forces.

"There is a great improvement," Shahak said. "I think that 1995 was one of the best years regarding the scope of accidents and their treatment. But as long as we have injuries, not enough is being done."

Shahak handed out awards for the safest units. First place among regular units went to the air force, followed by the engineers. The Gaza Division won first place among operational field units and the Armored Corps School was awarded top place among training units. Military Intelligence won first place among support units.

AEC denies employees have higher risk of cancer

LIAT COLLINS

THE Atomic Energy Commission last night repeated its commitment to the safety of workers at the Negev Nuclear Research Center and the residents of nearby towns following Channel 1's investigation into the center and nuclear reactor.

According to the *Second Look* program, more than 140 people are suing the Atomic Energy Commission for compensation for cancer they claim was caused by their work at the country's nuclear research centers.

The Health Ministry carried out a comprehensive survey on the incidence of cancer among NNRC workers. The results showed no difference between the NNRC workers and the general population in similar sectors. It also found no difference in the figures for cancer among NNRC employees working with radioactive material and those in administrative positions. The survey was rechecked by an external specialist and found to be in order.

AEC spokesman Yitzhak Lederman said.

The National Insurance Institute recently broadened its criteria to recognize cancer as a work-related disease for radiation workers at the NNRC, he added.

One zone incident as troops remain on alert

DAVID RUDGE

Hebron, he said, "Israel's excuse for not pulling out of Hebron, because of the latest attacks, is incomprehensible. We are all against the obstruction of Israel's withdrawal from Hebron and we oppose a cosmetic pullout."

"The latest violence not only gives Israel an excuse to suspend its pullout and the peace process but also will also undermine Yasser Arafat, which is not in anyone's interest," Moussa added.

Yesterday, Moussa met with Saeh Erakat, a member of the Palestinian Council, to discuss the situation in the territories.

"The Israeli government is conducting organized terrorism against the Palestinian people," Erakat told him. "It is continuing its collective punishment."

He added that the practices violate the Oslo accords.

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops remained on full alert in the security zone and along the northern border yesterday.

Only one incident was reported: Gommen fired anti-tank missiles at a SLA vehicle in the zone's eastern sector. There were no casualties or damage and IDF gunners returned fire.

Earlier, a news agency report from Lebanon claimed that at least four Hizballah gunmen had been killed on Saturday night by IDF tank and artillery fire near Roumane and Arab Salim villages north of the zone.

The IDF, however, denied any knowledge of the incident, and there was no confirmation of the report from any other source.

The relative calm that has reigned since the last wave of Hizballah attacks on Wednesday has not helped bring visitors back to the North.

Bialik Belsky, owner of the "Arizon" Hotel in Metulla, said he has had many cancellations because of the situation.

"Around 90 percent of those who made bookings have canceled and about 50 percent have canceled bookings they had made for Pessah. We had made special preparations for the holiday, which obviously cost a lot of money which it appears we won't recoup," he said.

"The media coverage, especially on television, of the tension in south Lebanon has caused more damage to tourism in the North than the terrorists have ever done. Even when Katyushas fell on Nahariya, we never had so many cancellations," he said.

"The problem is not just affecting us or Metulla, but the whole of the tourism industry in the north."

NEWS IN BRIEF

- New Islamic party head freed after questioning**
Palestinian security forces released the head of a new Islamic party, an offshoot of Hamas, a day after arresting him in connection with attacks against Israel, officials said yesterday. Fouad Nabbal, of the Islamic National Salvation Party (INSP), was arrested early on Saturday when he returned to his home from a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.
- Palestinian group claims last TA bombing**
A hitherto unheard of group yesterday claimed responsibility for the March 4 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. The claim came in an Arabic language typewritten statement from a group calling itself Kataeh Jundullah-Liwa al-Jalil, or Squads of the Soldiers of God-Gallilee Brigade.
- Orly Noah ID's husband as man who shot her**
Herzl Noah, accused of attempting to murder his estranged wife Orly by shooting her in the head and chest, was remanded until the end of legal proceedings by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.
- American student indicted for murder**
Arvin Johnson, 25, an American studying at Haifa University, was charged yesterday by Haifa District Court with stabbing to death his former girlfriend, Ganit Tzinnman, on February 24.
- Ministry prepares program to fight TB**
The Health Ministry has prepared a national program to fight tuberculosis, whose incidence is increasing here and around the world. The ministry announced the program for World TB Day, which was marked yesterday.

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Britain may slaughter herds to end 'mad-cow' disease

ALAN WHEATLEY
LONDON

THE British government said yesterday that it might slaughter part of Britain's cattle herd to root out "mad cow" disease, as fast-food giant McDonald's underlined a public health crisis by banning beef from its 660 restaurants in Britain.

Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg gave the firmest indication yet that the government was prepared to take drastic action to repair a "grievous" blow to confidence from scientific evidence of a new human strain of the deadly disease.

"A slaughter policy is not excluded... Clearly that is a matter which we need to consider," Hogg told BBC television.

If a decision to slaughter was taken, older animals would be the focus because there have been very few cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease in cattle over 30 months or in those born since the government banned offal in human foodstuffs in 1989, Hogg said.

"I certainly am focusing on the question of the older cow... I think that is the class of beast we should look at first."

Hogg was speaking after McDonald's, Britain's largest burger chain, dealt a new blow to the country's £4 billion (NIS 18.8 billion) beef industry already hit by slumping prices and an import ban by dozens of countries by taking beef off its menu.

McDonald's, which feeds 1.8 million Britons every day, said it believed British beef was safe but it could not disregard the growing unease of its customers.

"This is about public confidence, and I have to tell you that people are not feeling confident about British beef right now," Paul Preston, president of the British arm of the US-owned company, told Reuters.



Children line up for a lunch, including ostrich burgers, being offered by Avon Valley school in Rugby, central England. (AP)

McDonald's, which will have burgers made of Dutch beef back on sale beginning Thursday, imposed the ban without waiting for the outcome of a crucial week-end meeting of government scientists on the advice to give about the risks of eating beef.

"We certainly will consider any proposals that come to us from sources which have clearly given the matter considerable consideration," Hogg said.

Sir Richard Southwood, a leading expert on animal infection, recommended the slaughter of

more than one million cows about one tenth of the total herd born before 1990 to curb the risk of transmitting BSE to humans. "Serious consideration ought to be given to destroying all cattle born before 1990, when a lot of infected material was getting into

cattle feed," Southwood, who headed the government's first inquiry into BSE, told the *Mail on Sunday*.

Estimates of the cost of slaughtering the entire cattle herd range as high as £20 billion (NIS 94 billion).

Taiwan considers peace treaty with China

TAIWAN and China moved yesterday to defuse their worst crisis in decades as the people of this island savored the joy of anointing Lee Teng-hui the first directly elected leader in 5,000 years of Chinese history.

Premier Lien Chan said Taipei was "seriously" considering signing a peace treaty with China, and wanted to start negotiations immediately to pave the way for a bilateral summit.

China, which said its intimidation "dealt a heavy blow" to independence advocates on the island, also made its own conciliatory remarks, proposing a summit between China's communist leaders and their rivals on Taiwan.

Beijing's angriest words were directed at the United States, which dispatched to waters near Taiwan the biggest naval task-force seen in the region since the Vietnam War.

Lien, who was President Lee's running mate, told a small group of reporters: "As far as a peace agreement is concerned... we are

interested in thinking seriously about it and a lot of preparations need to be done for that."

In a goodwill gesture, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, renewed a peace overture to Taiwan, split from the mainland since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

"The two sides should realize a high-level summit between their leaders," he told Reuters, opening the door to possible talks with Lee, the man China has identified as its arch-enemy.

As a carnival atmosphere swept Taiwan, the US congratulated President Lee Teng-hui for winning 54 percent of the vote on Saturday. Washington said it hoped the crisis would ease after the island's watershed presidential election.

In recent weeks, China has piled verbal and military pressure on Taiwan, including missile tests and maneuvers close to the island, to try to persuade the island's voters to shun notions of independence. It regards Taiwan as a "gated province."

16 guards dead in Libya prison riot, 400 inmates escape

SALLOUM, Egypt (AP) - Sixteen guards were killed in a prison riot in Libya and at least 400 prisoners mostly anti-government soldiers or Islamic militants escaped, according to reports reaching Egypt yesterday.

Travelers from Libya and Libyan opposition groups in Egypt said the riot took place last week at the prison at al-Kuwaifiya, which is about 20 kilometers northeast of the Mediterranean city of Benghazi.

Libyan army troops have been conducting searches for the escaped prisoners, many of whom are believed to have taken refuge in inland caves and mountains. The main coastal highway

between Benghazi and the eastern city Tubruk has been closed, the travelers said. They spoke on condition they not be named.

The prisoners are believed to be armed, and leaders of Libyan opposition groups in Egypt suggested they had received help from outside the prison. They too, insisted on anonymity.

Some of those who escaped are believed to have been arrested for coup attempts, the opposition leaders said. One alleged attempt, which was never independently confirmed, apparently occurred last month, they said. The other was in 1994.

There was no immediate comment from the Libyan government.

Iraqi opposition seeks unity to topple Saddam

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Iraqi opposition leaders are planning two conferences in the Syrian capital next month to unify their ranks and agree a strategy to try to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, opposition sources said yesterday.

They told Reuters that 11 opposition leaders representing the Islamic, Kurdish, national and democratic movements would meet on April 2 to prepare for a bigger conference, tentatively set for April 12, in which 40 leaders would take part.

Mashaan Jbouri, head of the Iraqi al-Watan (Nation) party, said in an interview that unlike previous meetings which failed to agree a joint stand, the April 12 conference "has good chances of success."

The conference will group the main movements opposed to Saddam who have often been at odds with one another.

These include the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq led by Mohammed Baker Hakim, the Patriotic Union of

Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani, and the rival Democratic Kurdistan Party led by Masoud Barzani.

Jbouri, a member of Iraq's minority Sunni branch of the

country, were not trusted and were not represented in the opposition. Now they will be represented," Jbouri said.

"Until now, the opposition did not use arms against each other, not approve any agreement, not

was a good example for the Iraqi opposition to follow.

"We will propose a similar document in which all parties pledge to use arms against each other, to increase their ability to resist," Jbouri said.

Hussein, a young woman who voted in the impoverished Saddam City area of the capital.

But the 250-seat parliament has no real power and invariably backs Saddam, who makes all important decisions.

All 689 candidates were approved in advance by a government screening committee, and were either members of Saddam's Baath Party or independents who pledged their allegiance to the 1968 coup that brought the party to power.

hosting them. "The country which gives an opposition representative shelter and which gives him his travel documents will try to impose its policy on him and therefore he will have little ability to resist."

Jbouri said he and other Sunni opposition leaders would attend the Damascus meeting including Wafik Samera, former chief of Iraq's intelligence, and Salah Omar Ali, former member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and information minister.

Jbouri welcomed this month's defection to Jordan of Lt.-Gen. Nizar Khazraji, former chief of staff of the Iraqi armed forces, saying his desertion was a blow to Saddam.

"Saddam thought that by killing his two sons-in-law no other person would dare to defect," he said.

"We welcome Lieutenant Khazraji and consider his defection as a positive sign because it will encourage others to defect and not to link their fate to that of Saddam," Jbouri said.

Iraq holds elections in bid to help image

BAGHDAD (AP) Seeking to boost morale at home and improve its image abroad, Iraq yesterday held its first parliamentary elections since 1989 in balloting restricted to candidates loyal to President Saddam Hussein.

Many voters expressed the hope that a new parliament could help work toward a lifting of the comprehensive United Nations sanctions.

"Ending the embargo is the most important thing to us. We need food and medicine," said Karima

document to organize the opposition's activities and to serve as a reference if there was any dispute on any issue," he said.

He said the Taif agreement, which was signed by the Lebanese factions to end the civil war in 1990 and which was guaranteed by Syria and Saudi Arabia,

allow the Iraqi people to decide the shape of their future government through free democratic choice," Jbouri said.

Jbouri said he did not think there were differences among the opposition factions but the problems were rather the result of the influence exerted by the countries

One dead in Chechen rebel attack on Russian convoy

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Rebels attacked a Russian army convoy in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding three, Interfax news agency said.

It quoted officials at Russia's military command in Grozny as saying the rebels had opened fire on the 10-vehicle convoy in the Zavodsky region of the city at around 2 p.m. and were repulsed when the Russians shot back. It gave no other details of the clash, but said about 200 to 300 armed rebels were thought to be still in Grozny.

Interfax and Itar-Tass news agencies reported yesterday morning that six Russian servicemen had been killed and 20 wounded in clashes in the previous 24 hours.

Interfax quoted an official at Russia's military command in Chechnya as saying the Russians were continuing to blockade rebel groups in western and southwestern Chechnya around the villages of Bamut, Samashki, Goyskoye and Komsomolskoye.

Russian troops, sent to the southern region in December 1994 to try to quell an independence drive, clash daily with the separatist rebels.

Six dead and 20 hurt is slightly above the typical daily casualty toll since a much battered cease-fire was agreed last summer.

New Goebbels biography creates stir

NEW YORK - St. Martin's Press said it will release Holocaust denier David Irving's controversial new biography of Joseph Goebbels, although there have been numerous protests since an advance review in *Publishers Weekly* said the book blames the Jews for provoking Nazi brutality. Publisher Thomas Dunne said the book was not sym-

pathetic to Goebbels. "Nazi brutality is almost always retaliation for the plots of international Jewry and the criminality of domestic Jews," the *Publishers Weekly* reviewer said in the account of the book, titled: *Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich*. "There is always, in Irving's own words, a 'Jewish problem' that

Goebbels struggles to solve," wrote the unidentified reviewer, who called the book "repellent." "We would hope that you will at least characterize the book as a work of fiction," Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said Friday in a letter to St. Martin's. Marilyn Henry

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THE answer, says American conductor David Zinman, is blowing in the winds. When asked how the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has changed since he last led them in 1978, Zinman especially notes improvements in the sections that depend on lung power. "It's a different orchestra, and much younger. They seem more disciplined now. The winds and brass are better, and the strings still have the same beautiful sound I remember from 18 years ago."

Dear IPO: You've grown!

"Avi [Shoshani, IPO secretary general] asked me and so I said, 'I'll come.' "It's nice to come back and see how Israel and the orchestra have changed and to express my solidarity with them. You must realize that one does not come here for money, so it has to be for love," he said Friday afternoon after leading the IPO at the Mann Auditorium. Like the parent of two children, Zinman shuns any public preference between the two orchestras for which he is music director. "They are very different, yet both are very enthusiastic and young enough that you can still mold them. They are not blasé in any way, both have very good

halls." The financial situation in the US makes it unclear whether he will stay in Baltimore past his current three-year contract. "I will stay as long as they maintain the orchestra in its current state." As a music director, Zinman often finds it difficult to get the conductors he wants to appear with his orchestras. "Finding really good guest conductors is getting harder and harder. The top ones are not guest conducting at all, and the middle-range conductors are also very busy these days. It's getting very complicated, so what you do is try and find people who will have a steady relationship with your orchestra and offer them two, three weeks each season."

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
This, he admits, is much easier in Zurich than in Baltimore. "In Zurich, we have a lot more money and it's much more central. In the US, it's much more difficult, as the conductors who do come prefer first to perform with the orchestras of New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles or Cleveland before they go to Baltimore." The Zurich job is a kind of a reward after more than a decade of work, mostly in the US. "I lived a long time in Holland [as music director of the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra (1964-77), and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (1979-

1982)], so this is a return to Europe. Now I have the time to live there, but I don't know how long I'll be doing both orchestras." As shown by his track record, Zinman definitely believes in lasting relationships between orchestras and their music directors. "After 11 years in Baltimore I can say that's the only way. The work you have to do takes more than five years. By the time you get started, you usually leave, so you achieve nothing. It's at least 10 years before you really start accomplishing something. Now in Baltimore we tour and record, we have a wonderful radio series, and the orchestra has gotten better and better and I hope



Guest conductor David Zinman says the IPO has come a long way since his last visit.

admits it is difficult to convince audiences. "In the US, they are a little more open minded, especially to new American music. But in Zurich it's much harder. There they want Brahms and Beethoven, and even Sibelius and Nielsen is new for them. So you have to think about your programs very carefully. I don't believe in a ghetto for new music; it all has to fit in with the overall programming." In his current series of concerts with the IPO, Zinman accompanies Itzhak Perlman in two works which are not that familiar to local audiences - the Barber violin concerto and Bernstein's *Serenade*. He also led the orchestra last week in Brahms's First *Serenade* and will follow later this week with Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. He leads the IPO Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

New director has Khan-do attitude

HELEN KAYE
OFIRA Henig dreams of "creating a theater in Jerusalem that people will come from Tel Aviv to see." She's speaking of the Khan Theater whose artistic director she has just become, replacing Eran Baniel who resigned last spring. She'll start officially in June but she's working a dual track already. There are artistic decisions to implement and the production of a play to complete, Richard Eyre's *Ha Ha* based on the book by Jennifer Dawson and translated into Hebrew by Eytan Blum. Josephine, played by singer Michal Yanai in her first dramatic role, is a patient in a mental hospital. There she meets the hyperactive Alasdair (Yossi Marshak). The two begin a tenuous friendship which is amputated abruptly when Alasdair is released. It's then that Josephine must decide whether or not to retreat permanently into the fantasy world she has created as a huffer between herself and reality. "Ha Ha is the name Josephine gives to the fence that she has put around that world. It's also the sound of laughter," says Henig. "You need humor to work on a play like this. It protects you, but you can only develop it after you understand it. That's the question the play raises, the very narrow line between sanity and insanity, and who or what gives society the right to make those decisions." She sits with her actors around the table to discuss and analyze the play for as much as two weeks before they ever make a move on stage. And she saves rehearsing the end of a play until near the end of the rehearsal process "because only then can the characters realize what's happening." Henig tends to choose plays whose themes hover at the edges of normalcy or whose characters go over that edge, as in last summer's production of *The Wedding* by Bertolt Brecht.



THREE FOR THE SHOW - Academy Awards ceremony producer Quincy Jones takes a break with host Whoopi Goldberg, as Oscar looks on. The extravaganza will be broadcast live from Los Angeles on the Movie Channel in the wee hours of the morning. (AP)

'Utzli Gutzli,' and Vishi too

HELEN KAYE
"EH! and where have you been? Haven't you seen you in the longest time," a middle-aged soccer fan he "miliarily at Shlomo (Vishi) ...". "They still remember me," says Vishinsky happily, and his tired, red-rimmed eyes gleam. Once, he played soccer with Hapoel Tel Aviv in the afternoon and at 8:30, there he was onstage at the Cameri Theater which had hired him in 1967. But soccer is a perilous sport, and young Vishinsky would often turn up bruised and limping. One day, the Cameri general manager Yeshayahu Weiborg told him, "Soccer or theater. Choose!" Theater won, and now Vishi plays tennis with the same intensity he once devoted to soccer. At 52, balding and a little stout, Vishinsky is no longer the handsome, intense young actor of his earlier pictures. But his smile remains as guileless, and his expression just a bit bemused. Onstage he's often been the picture of cunning innocence, of naive roguery in role after role of the clever servant, from the great Shakespearean clown Grumio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Lancelot Gobbo in *The Merchant of Venice*, to the chief servant in Avraham Shlonsky's musical classic, *Utzli Gutzli*. He's recreating the role of the chief servant for the current Menahem Golan production of *Utzli Gutzli* which opens at the Tel Aviv Cinerama on April 4. Vishinsky is also the director. The four previous productions of the musical were put on by the Cameri. *Utzli Gutzli* is Shlonsky's rhymed adaptation of Rumpelstiltskin, the story of the miller's daughter (Sharon Haziz) who rashly claims she can spin straw into gold, and of the strange little being (Zachi Noy) who helps her do it on the condition that, if she doesn't guess his name, she'll give him her first son. What kind of an agreement is that, demands Vishinsky. "The moral of the story is that you don't make promises you don't intend to keep." But *Utzli Gutzli*'s moral underpinnings don't really interest Vishinsky that much. "I suggested it to Menahem because I love it. Although it's a classic tale, it's a very Israeli play because of Shlonsky's language. "He invented words, created a language within a language that's very melodic, and Duhai Selzer's music helps." The current production is modeled on the original that director Yossi Izrael mounted in 1965, "but we've added things like cutouts and even more colorful costumes," Vishinsky says. He and Golan have been friends ever since the day 40 years ago when Vishinsky answered an ad for child actors to appear in a musical of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at the Tilon Theater in Tel Aviv. Golan wrote the adaptation and the lyrics, one of which was the song "Little Rascals." Golan had forgotten the words, but Vishi hadn't, "and when I sang it for him, Menahem cried." However, the choice of Vishinsky to direct *Utzli Gutzli* has nothing to do with friendship, "but because I'm good. Menahem is a friend to all actors, but there are no favorites when that curtain goes up at 8:30. Either you can hack it or you can't." After the Tilon, Vishinsky went on to play in an IDF entertainment troupe and then into professional theater after his release from the army. The Six Day War brought him home pell-mell from the US, and after the war, he was grabbed off the street and brought into the Cameri. A friend huttonholed him and said, "Come upstairs. They need an actor." Vishinsky's Cameri debut was in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, directed by Leonard Schach. Despite some lean years in the late 1980s when he was on the outs with the artistic management - "Let's not go into that" - Vishinsky is still at the Cameri, and currently appearing as an Elvis clone in *Cyprus*. Juggling out-of-town performances of *Cyprus* and rehearsals of *Utzli Gutzli* accounts for the red-rimmed eyes, but Vishinsky is full of energy. The enchantment of a new generation of *Utzli Gutzli* kids is assured, "and I still play singles [tennis]," he says contentedly.

'Barber' takes a short cut from Bulgaria

AN operatic soprano who once traveled to Cairo to perform in a musical by a Bulgarian jazz composer is nothing if not flexible. It's a quality 37-year-old Maryana Pashalieva needs to abundance to juggle her roles both as star performer and as recently appointed manager of the Bulgarian Chamber Opera. Pashalieva is currently in Israel singing the leading female role in Rossini's comic operatic masterpiece *The Barber of Seville*, as her company makes its local debut. The raison d'etre of the Bulgarian Chamber Opera is to tour as much as possible, bringing opera to smaller venues in Bulgaria and abroad. This is accomplished by reducing the number of orchestra members to a manageable touring size. "We have a small orchestra of 26 but all the other components of the production are identical to those of any bigger opera company," she says.

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
As a manager, Pashalieva is very conscious of her goals for the company. "I try to be much more European. Before we used to work very slowly, everything took a lot of time. Now I try to make everything much more effective," she explains, clearly influenced by her current management studies at the English Open University in Sofia. The BCO performs quite a var-

ied repertoire that does not stick entirely to the tried and tested and which on the whole enjoys an immense popularity in its homeland. "But when we do *Rita* by Donizetti or *Mavra* by Stravinsky we do not always get full houses," she admits. The soprano-cum-manager was born in Sofia but now resides with her family in Blagoevgrad, about an hour's drive from the capital and the current home of the 25-year-old BCO. "It's a smaller city with a lot of nature

in it and I'm totally in love with it." This is Pashalieva's first visit here and she already has a very romantic notion about the country. "I think it's like I lived here before in another life," she says. "I feel myself at home in Israel, it's a very beautiful country." The Bulgarian Chamber Opera performs *The Barber of Seville* tonight at Kibbutz Givat Brenner, tomorrow and Saturday at the Shomer Theater in Jerusalem and Thursday in Arad.

Home-grown, imported acts mix at alternative rock fest

HELEN KAYE
It had to happen. The first local alternative rock festival, called the Yaron Yerushalmi Next Music Festival, or YNNext, will take place at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, May 9 to 11. "It'll be basically rock, but anything goes as long as it's interesting," says YNNext musical director and rocker Rami Fortis. Its aim is to provide a stage for both music and music makers. There'll be concerts by local and visiting artists as well as special sessions, lectures and demonstrations devoted to the industry aspect of music making. The neo-'60s group Rockfour with help from Jeremy Kaplan and others will open the festival with "Back to Shablul" a salute to Arik Einstein and Shalom Hanoch whose joint 1969-70 albums, *Shablul, Pozi and Plastelina*, are already classics. Other local performers include guitarist Assaf Amdurski; Jerusalem-based Divah!, a four-year-old electronic rock band; Barry Sakharov in an acoustic guitar concert; and Next Intimi, a stage for new solo performers pre-

Calling all alumni: Kibbutz Dance troupe to celebrate its 25th year

HELEN KAYE
The Kibbutz Dance Company will celebrate the start of its 25th year with a reunion of all its dancers, and a gala performance in Nahariya on March 30 of Rami Be'eri's full-length ballet, *Aide Memoire*. "In *Nahariya*?" asked an outraged dance correspondent who seemed to have trouble believing anywhere else but Tel Aviv existed. But KDC artistic director Yehudit Arnon is composedly equal to the challenge. "Nahariya is our home base," she answers. "Most of our audience come from the region and we owe them our allegiance and respect." KDC has come a long way since its beginning in 1970. Then, five dancers met once a week. Today, thanks to its resident choreographer Rami Be'eri, KDC has become a signature company with

an international reputation to rival that of Ohad Naharin's Batsheva Dance company. The KDC, which is based in Kibbutz Ga'aton close to Israel's northern border, today numbers 19 dancers, only half of them kibbutzniks. "Opening the company to Israeli and foreign dancers has been artistically healthy," avers Be'eri, who has created 18 dances for KDC since his debut *Sonatina* in 1983. KDC appears annually at the Karmiel Dance Festival with a new work by Be'eri, and this year will be no exception. Be'eri is also preparing a full-length ballet for the 1997 Israel Festival. The 25th anniversary year will include tours to Turkey, South Korea, Poland, Spain, Italy and Brazil.

Also planned are a traveling photographic exhibition, a documentary film and - to encourage creativity within the company - two works by company dancers which will also premiere at Karmiel. In 1996 KDC's overall budget is NIS 7 million with NIS 2.94 m. coming from the Arts and Culture Authority "which is far less than we deserve in the light of our activity," grumbles KDC general manager Dan Rudolf with a not so oblique reference to Batsheva. The joint Batsheva and Batsheva Ensemble budget for this year is NIS 9.2 million of which 49% comes from the ACA. "We also have a junior company," Rudolf points out, referring to the 35-member Young KDC which performs youth concerts. "They have to be paid as well," he says.

Viloszny all alone with top prize for monodrama

Actor Shmuel Viloszny won the Nissim Azikri Prize, worth NIS 10,000, for his solo performance in *A Jew in Darkness* at the 1996 TheaterNetto Festival, which ended last week.

Honorable Mentions went to Tahel Ran and Rama Messinger for, respectively, *Where's Ruthi?* and *A Love Story Needs an End*.

Helen Kaye

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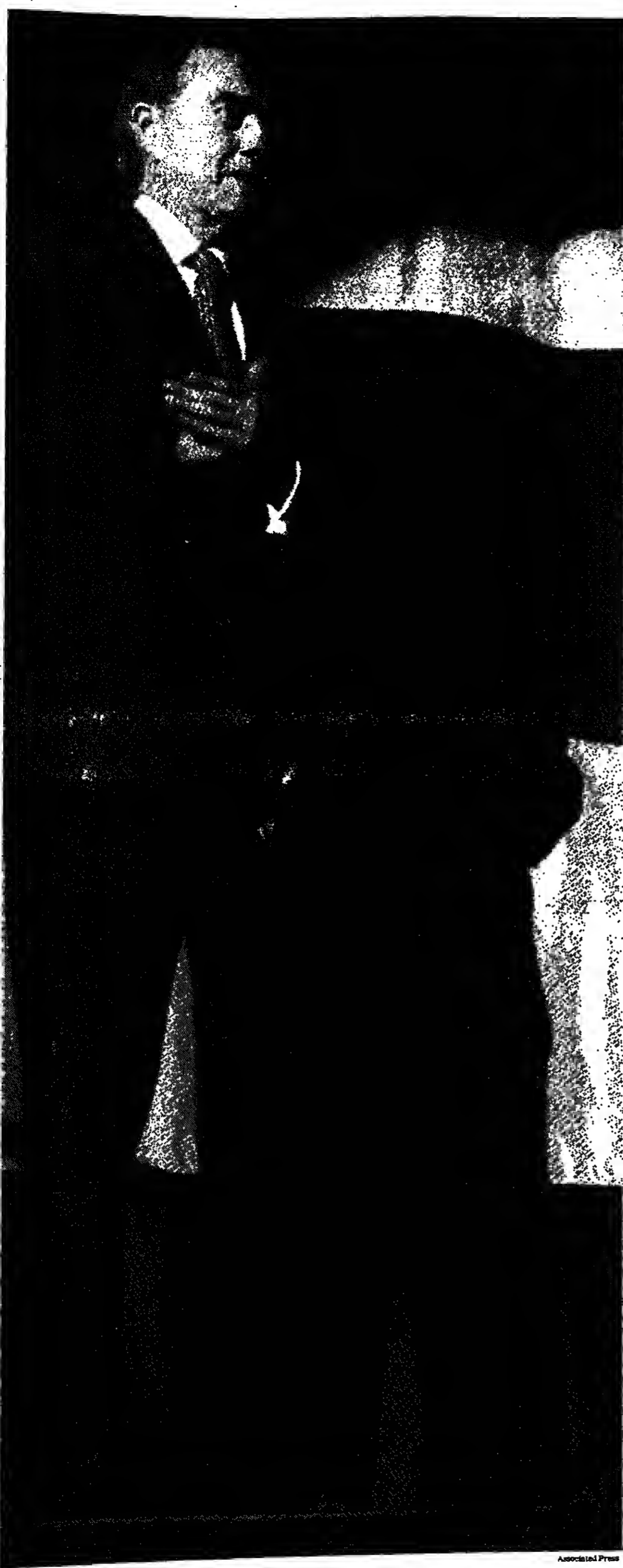
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About Jerusalem

Guts & gripes

SUSAN HATFIELD'S ROLE

T... ce'



For Bob Dole, much may ride on how voters view his running mate.

Significant Others

Much Will Hinge on 2 Close to the Candidates

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

WASHINGTON PRESIDENTIAL candidate's choice of a running mate can be a seminal event, of course, in advancing the career of the lucky politician who gets the nod. Five of the last 10 Presidents had served previously as Vice President, and in seven of the last eight elections, one or both of the major party Presidential nominees had served previously as Vice President. For the Vice Presidential nominee, it is a big step up.

But seldom does the choice profoundly influence the outcome of the campaign. Since World War II, only John F. Kennedy's selection of Lyndon B. Johnson in 1960 was decisive (or thought to be decisive; no one can prove the widely held theory that without Johnson, Kennedy would have lost Texas, Johnson's state, and with it the election).

In most years, furthermore, it occurs to few voters to take into account who would be the First Lady in deciding whom to support for President. But in most years, no one like Hillary Rodham Clinton inhabited the White House.

This year may be different. Even before the primary elections had begun, Senator Bob Dole was surrounded by conjecture that he would choose a running mate, someone much younger than he, before the convention or even before the primaries as a means of countering the notion that he was too old for the Presidency. He will be 73 by election day; if elected he will be the oldest man ever to take office and only a bit younger than Ronald Reagan at the start of his second term.

Age Matters

Now that Senator Dole has all but clinched the nomination — he will eliminate the last vestige of doubt if he wins, as universally expected, in California on Tuesday — speculation about his running mate is keener than ever. Because of his age, about which roughly a third of those polled in most primary states voiced concerns, Mr. Dole, who was Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976, will need to select someone the electorate views as fully qualified to serve as President. Even more than Vice President John Adams, who once said, "I am nothing but I may be everything," he or she will need to be prepared.

Given the controversy that has swirled around Mrs. Clinton, the determined, talented (and by some accounts domineering) First Lady, Mr. Dole has already tried to project his own wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, as a different sort of woman with wholly different ideas about the role the First Lady should play.

"She will not be in charge of health care in the Dole Administration," the Kansan has said in speeches in a dozen states. A former Cabinet member, she nonetheless intends to play no formal or informal government role if her husband is elected, resuming instead her job as president of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Clinton, seen by many Americans as self-



For Bill Clinton, it's how voters view his mate.

righteous and overambitious, by others as an admirable role model for women, is a polarizing figure — more so, perhaps, than any other figure in American politics except Newt Gingrich. Mr. Clinton called her his partner in the Presidency. The first First Lady to be summoned before a grand jury, she is a central character in the tangled web of Whitewater, blamed by some

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Dreamland

Morning in America in Japan



Japan has family values and then some. Three generations of a Tokyo family.

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

WHEN this year's crop of American Presidential candidates dies and goes to heaven (an assumption some may question), pretty much the whole lot of them might end up here in Japan. It has just about everything they might want.

¶Law and order! Some prisons are so strict that inmates are virtually never allowed to speak to each other. No coddling here; one woman prisoner who simply said "good luck" during an exercise session got eight days of solitary confinement, where prisoners must spend the entire day seated on the floor, motionless, eyes closed.

¶Basics in the schools! Kids are not allowed to leave their books at school overnight — they have to take them home as an inducement to crack them.

¶Family values! This is a country where when you mention single mothers, you're probably discussing widows.

¶Protect domestic jobs! Every American politician seems to admire the efficiency of Japanese protectionism, leaving it to Japanese officials to stammer a disclaimer of any special talent.

It is true that Japan encapsulates much of what many Americans yearn for. It has the longest life expectancy on the globe, as well as some of the lowest crime rates. Literacy is universal, so that even the occasional homeless read serious newspapers to catch up on the situation in Bosnia. This is a country where carjacking is what you do to change a tire. Even better, from an American politician's point of

view, is the fact that Japan is a place where elected officials get some respect. They are normally addressed in Japanese as "sensei," or "teacher." (As in: "Teacher, why did you accept a briefcase full of money from a construction company bidding for a Government project?") Yet if Americans sometimes dream of a place like this, it is sobering that many Japanese are fed up with their situation. It is not exactly that they yearn for drug-infested slums with bad schools, but neither are they content with what they've got now.

Greener Weeds

"We may require not reform, but revolution," Ichiro Ozawa, the leader of the main opposition group, the New Frontier Party, said in an interview. Mr. Ozawa is the leading revolutionary in Japan these days, but just about everybody in the country — including Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto — insists that far-reaching change is essential in Japan.

So Japan offers a reminder of how frustrating the search for a social utopia can be. As commentators from de Tocqueville on have pointed out, Americans harbor a strain of insecurity over how their nation compares with others — and that may be a spur to American growth and innovation. But in fact when you've traipsed over to study the supposedly greener grass on the neighbor's lot, it often turns out that it's overgrown with weeds, or that it's fenced off so that no one can enjoy it, or that it's AstroTurf.

What is perhaps most intriguing about Japan is the way it manages to realize so many current American

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The Bottom Line

How I balanced the Federal budget.

By David E. Rosenbaum

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Education Summit

Does America expect too much from its schools?

By Peter Applebome

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Labor Pains

job security, not revolution.

By Keith Bradsher

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Continental Drift

Europe sputters toward unification.

By Richard W. Stevenson

4

The Nation

You, Too, Can Balance the Federal Budget

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

ANYBODY can balance the Federal budget over seven years. I did it in a couple of hours.

- This is all it required:
1. The hubris to make crucial policy judgments about matters I know absolutely nothing about (what the consequences would be, say, of reducing the number of Navy aircraft carriers to 10 from 12).
 2. The willingness to raise other people's taxes (those who drive a lot) and reduce Federal benefits I never expect to have (farm-price supports).
 3. The determination to maintain the tax breaks (mortgage interest deduction) and Government subsidies (mass transit) that I enjoy.
 4. The ability to make the decisions by myself without having to strike compromises with people (my family and friends, to say nothing of people who live across town or across the country) who have interests, needs and views different from mine.
 5. The knowledge that (unlike the politicians who have been unable to agree on a budget plan) I never have to run for reelection.

Billion Here, There

I used a game called Debtbusters 2002 developed by the Concord Coalition, a non-partisan organization that promotes a balanced budget (202-467-6222). It lists dozens of deficit-reduction options that President Clinton and Congress have considered in four areas: domestic spending, national security spending, taxes and entitlements. The player is supplied with brief arguments for and against each option and the amount of spending that would be saved (or revenue gained or lost, in the case of tax changes) if the option is selected.

The object is to check off options that add up to \$850 billion, enough, the authors of the game say, to balance the budget in seven years.

The best place to start is benefit programs, called entitlements, since that category accounts for two-thirds of all Federal spending. There are two main types: those like Social Security and Medicare that are



What's required?
Hubris, tax increases for other people and no compromises.

These were my cuts:

Cancel the space station (\$13.8 billion); consolidate the Departments of Education and Labor (\$3 billion); abolish the Commerce Department (\$7 billion); eliminate funding for several arcane education programs like the one that gives school districts extra money for pupils whose parents live or work on Federal property (\$4.8 billion); cut in half funding for the arts and humanities (\$3.6 billion); eliminate community development block grants and some rural development programs (\$31.6 billion, see No. 2); limit low-income energy assistance to the most needy (\$3 billion).

Total savings from miscellaneous cuts: \$68.5 billion.

Now for taxes. Unlike President Clinton and the Republicans who control Congress, I see no need for tax reductions. In fact, I chose these tax increases (see No. 2): Raise the gasoline tax by 25 cents a gallon (\$108.7); raise the cigarette tax by 75 cents a pack and the tax on alcohol by about 50 cents for each six-pack or bottle of wine or spirits (\$98.7 billion); eliminate the deduction for mortgage interest for interest payments above \$20,000 a year (\$56.5 billion).

Total tax increases: \$263.9 billion.

Time to take stock. The spending cuts and tax increases I have so painlessly checked off total \$932.6 billion, \$82.6 billion more than necessary to balance the budget under the rules of the game.

So since I may want to retire at 65 (see No. 3), let's forget about raising the retirement age (\$72.6 billion). And to avoid fights with members of my family who disagree with me (see No. 4), let's not cut funds for the arts and humanities (\$3.6 billion).

That leaves a surplus of \$8.4 billion over seven years. I'll give it to the Pentagon. You can't be too careful about the nation's defense needs (see No. 1).

available to the elderly regardless of their means and those like welfare, Medicaid and food stamps for the poor.

I decided to spare the poor and go after the elderly, whose benefits have risen most rapidly in recent years (see No. 5, above).

Big bucks can be saved (\$281 billion) by making benefits like Social Security and Medicare subject to the income tax to the extent they exceed an individual's contributions. Other hits on old people: Hold the annual cost of living increase in Social Security benefits to half a percentage point below the rate of inflation (\$39.7 billion); gradually raise the Social Security retirement age (\$72.6 billion); raise the Medicare premium for outpatient services for individuals with incomes above \$50,000 and couples

with incomes above \$65,000 (\$25.9 billion).

Other entitlement savings (not primarily involving the elderly or the poor): reduce farm subsidies (\$31.6 billion, see No. 2); restrict veterans' compensation for those with relatively minor impairments like flat feet and eliminate payments to new applicants with disabilities unrelated to military service (\$7.6 billion); increase fees for using Federal resources and services ranging from mining on Government land to obtaining a communications license (\$29 billion). Total entitlement savings: \$507.4 billion.

The next biggest category of Government spending is the Pentagon. The cold war is over, and big cuts here seem easy (see No. 1). These are the ones I made:

Cancel development and production of

various high-technology aircraft like the F-22 advanced tactical fighter, the C-17 transport plane, the F/A-18 attack aircraft, the V-22 vertical takeoff plane and the Comanche helicopter (\$42.8 billion); reduce the number of aircraft carriers, destroyers and frigates and cancel the third Sea Wolf submarine (\$15.9 billion); reduce the troop strength of the Army (\$16.7 billion); reduce nuclear delivery systems and other nuclear weapons programs (\$9.4 billion); consolidate military infrastructure, whatever that means (\$7.7 billion).

Total military savings: \$92.5 billion.

Cutting other Government programs is harder. Whole programs can be abolished without saving much money. But this is not the time to be daunted (see Nos. 3, 4 and 5).

A Modest Strike

For the U.A.W., It's Not the Revolution

By KEITH BRADSHAW

AT first glance, the basic relationship between labor and capital in the United States seemed to be changing last week.

A small band of workers, just 3,000 brake makers here, had shut down the world's largest auto maker, the General Motors Corporation, in the industry's biggest work stoppage since 1970. Some outsiders called for the United Automobile Workers to rally Americans under a banner of resistance to the broad forces of economic change that have produced so much insecurity across the country. And Robert Eaton, the chief executive of the Chrysler Corporation, lamented, "Today, apparently the shame is raising a son who grows up to be a C.E.O."

Yet the U.A.W. never took up that banner, negotiating last week's settlement in total secrecy. Even while the Presidential campaign brings fresh attention to the plight of workers, corporate America remains in a season of downsizing. And the brake workers themselves — with an average age of 50 and an average income of \$69,000 a year from working six- and seven-day weeks — were singularly unenthusiastic about playing the starring role in any social revolution.

Strictly Local

"We didn't want to shake up the nation, we just wanted to shake up the people in here," said Warren M. Cooper, a 53-year-old picketer at the factory gate who put his three children through college on his earnings here.

Nor did the union have much to say about larger issues like corporate responsibility and economic inequality. In contrast to the U.A.W. of the 1930's and 1940's, this union went on strike here not to galvanize other workers or even to pursue higher wages or benefits, but to insist that G.M. live up to past promises to continue producing most of its brakes in Dayton.

And in the end, the workers here won some job security and cash for themselves while resisting G.M.'s demands for greater freedom to buy parts from outside, nonunion companies. But the union failed to put any new limits on these outside purchases, leaving the overall relationship with the company unchanged.

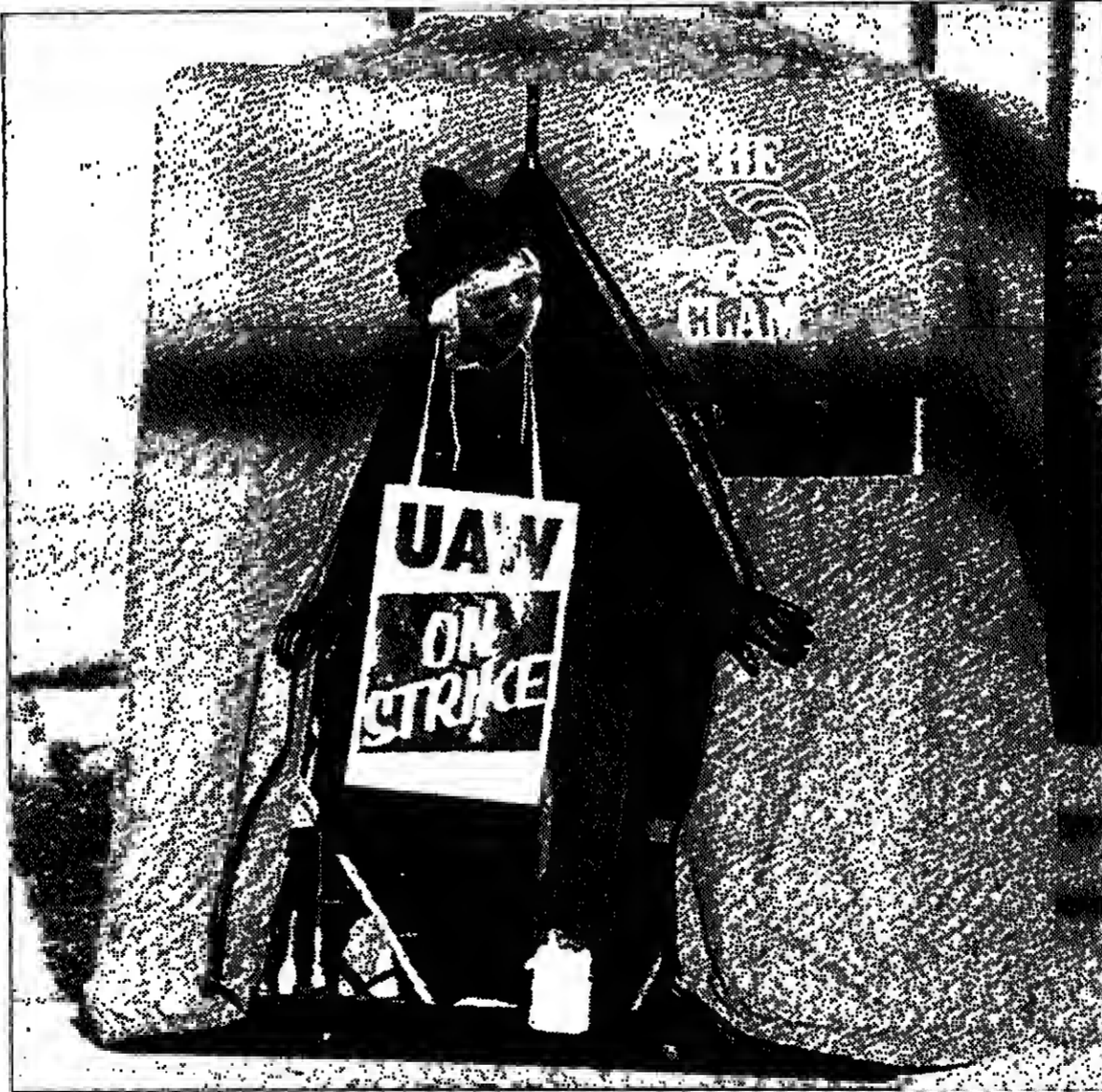
It was management, not labor, that was on the offensive during much of the strike. G.M. resisted bargaining with the U.A.W. for the first week of the confrontation, which lasted 17 days.

G.M. managers were trying to extract concessions on parts purchases that would boost the profitability of the company and its long-run ability to compete. In doing so, they provided a particularly vivid example of the broader shift of compensation away from workers and toward owners of capital.

"This is one of the skirmishes in one of the great battles over income share in this economy — this is one of the great issues of how the product is divided," said James E. Annable, the chief economist at First Chicago NBD, the biggest bank in the Midwest. But it was management, not workers, that is trying to shift the balance at G.M., he added.

But the U.A.W.'s willingness to confront management might not be repeated elsewhere as long as Federal law continues to allow companies to hire replacement workers during strikes. The same U.A.W. that appeared invincible here last week lost a bitter 18-month strike at Caterpillar Inc. last year when the heavy equipment maker brought in replacements.

G.M. never even tried to train replacement workers because the company is simply too big to do so.



G.M. was all but shut down by 3,000 strikers in Dayton, among them Larry Price, stepping into the cold.

Replacing its 240,000 U.A.W. workers would be a nearly impossible task even if G.M. were not in a market so competitive that a company's market share can melt away in weeks, never to be recovered.

But G.M. is also the nation's largest industrial corporation, with sales in the fourth quarter of last year that were 19 times greater, for example, than the sales of the Microsoft Corporation. Few other companies face the constraints that G.M.'s sheer size imposes.

The Public's Interest

Labor experts said last week that while the immediate effects of the G.M. strike may have been spectacular, with several hundred thousand workers out of work, real changes in labor relations are more likely to come from political pressures than from strikes. To the dismay of corporate leaders like Mr. Eaton, business decisions affecting employees are increasingly the subject of public scrutiny, including criticism from politicians of both parties.

"Outsourcing and downsizing, those two issues

which have to do with corporate behavior, are all out now in the public domain," said Barry Bluestone, a professor of political economy at the University of Massachusetts.

The prospects for political changes are murky for now. Republicans in Congress strongly favor allowing the replacement of strikers, while a Federal court has rejected President Clinton's effort to halt Federal contracts by executive decree for companies that hire replacement workers. Last week the Justice Department filed an appeal of the court decision.

So while a few of the U.A.W. workers here bemoaned the job insecurity and economic inequality that are changing the nation, their strike did not appear to have done much to halt either trend.

"When I got out of high school, there were good-paying jobs — now, you've got people coming out of college and there aren't any jobs," said Jim Breen, a 48-year-old maintenance worker here who walked the picket line near his shiny black 1994 GMC Sonoma pickup truck. "I know people who have got 25-year-olds sitting on their couch who can't put the money together for the insurance on their car."

Significantly, The 2 Others

Continued from page 1

in the Administration for making it worse than necessary by her refusal to release relevant information.

In a poll taken in January by CBS News, 49 percent of the respondents said they thought Mrs. Clinton had taken part in a coverup in the Whitewater case, as against 37 percent who voiced a similar view of the President. In a Gallup Poll taken the same month, amid fresh Whitewater charges, Mr. Clinton had a favorable rating of 54 percent, while Mrs. Clinton got 43 percent.

But Mrs. Clinton may be more a subliminal than an explicit issue in the fall campaign, and it is hard to judge at this stage how important she will be. Mr. Dole clearly sees his wife as a major asset, especially in the South (she is from North Carolina), but overt Hillary-bashing might prove counterproductive.

First Choice

Even if she is a liability, there is little Mr. Clinton can do about his most visible partner. But Mr. Dole's vice-presidential options are many. His first choice is fairly clear. He has talked repeatedly about retired Gen. Colin L. Powell as a running mate, even though he knows as well as anyone that choosing him would alienate those in the party, including Patrick J. Buchanan, who are deeply offended by General Powell's relatively permissive attitude toward abortion.

General Powell said in an interview with the columnist Carl T. Rowan a week ago that he is sticking to his decision not to seek any elective office this year, and he denounced "this feeding frenzy about my running for vice president." But what matters is not what he says now but what he would say in August if Mr. Dole pressed him to run for the good of the country.

Others equally uninterested in the vice presidency, notably Mr. Johnson and Nelson A. Rockefeller, have heard similar words and yielded.

If not General Powell, who?

One traditional approach has been to seek someone from a closely fought state with a lot of electoral votes. That could help the chances of the Midwestern governors — John Engler of Michigan, George Voinovich of Ohio, Jim Edgar of Illinois and Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin. None is perfect — critics consider Mr. Engler too dull and Mr. Edgar insufficiently conservative, for example — but all have the potential of helping to deliver big battleground states.

The same could be said of Gov. Christie Whitman of New Jersey, who would also enable Mr. Dole to say he had brought a woman into the highest councils of government in the right way, as opposed to using his wife as one of his principal advisers. Ms. Whitman, a defender of abortion rights though conservative on fiscal matters, would upset social conservatives as much as General Powell.

A few people have mentioned Senator Connie Mack of Florida, another battleground state, but Senator Dole, a Washington "lifer" in an era when state governments are thought more virtuous than the Federal government, would probably prefer an outside-the-Beltway partner. A few have mentioned Dick Cheney, the highly regarded former Defense Secretary, but he has had three heart attacks.

But enough. We shall have to wait until August to see what Mr. Dole decides, and until November to see whether voters react, as usual, to the great issues like jobs and crime and war and peace, and their perceptions of the characters of the Presidential nominees, or others" of the campaign — the Vice Presidential nominees and the non-nominees for First Lady.

Ideas & Trends

Can the Schools Stand and Deliver?

By PETER APPLEBOME

THE answer to all our national problems comes down to a single word: education," Lyndon B. Johnson said in promoting his vision of the Great Society in the 1960's.

In that same spirit — the eternal American faith that schools can solve all the nation's ills — the nation's governors and top corporate executives are gathering this week in Palisades, N.Y., for what is being grandly billed as the Second National Education Summit. President Clinton is to address the governors Wednesday.

The gathering itself, occurring at a time of faint progress toward the "new era of education reform" that George Bush hailed after the first summit in 1989, reflects the prevailing belief that the nation needs to demand more from its struggling schools, teachers and underachieving students.

Too Much or Too Little

But some historians and educators are offering the heretical notion that it can be as shortsighted to expect schools to do too much as it can be to accept when they do too little, particularly when enormous social and economic problems are seeping into the classroom and disagreement is rife over how the schools should respond. The critics argue that President Johnson got it wrong; that the nation's educational ills are more the result than the cause of its economic problems, investment decisions, violent culture and urban decay. And without adequate funds and realistic expectations and planning, periodic promulgations on how bad things are or how wonderful they can be will not improve education.

"Americans have always had very utopian expectations of what the schools can do," said David Tyack, a professor of education at Stanford University. "That can be a very positive way of recreating democracy. The problem comes when you promise too much and people get cynical. The danger with the utopian view of education policy is that it's a short jump from seeing education as the ark of the covenant to becoming cynical and disappointed enough to see schools as failures that don't matter at all."

Thus, this second summit is provoking two key questions: Is its agenda of higher standards and better technology the right one? And is America's faith in education realistic?

High expectations, as well as high achievement, have long been a central element of public education. From Horace Mann's millennial view of schools in the 1840's as mighty engines of moral and social uplift to the current view of them as pivotal

to the nation's economic future, Americans have put so much faith in learning that a recent book, "Tinkering Toward Utopia" (Harvard University Press, 1995), by Mr. Tyack and Larry Cuban, calls education "almost a secular religion."

President Bush and the governors adopted ambitious national goals for improving schools over a 10-year period.

Since then, however, there has been little real progress in test scores or graduation rates and, worse, there have been some signs that education is sliding farther down in the national priorities. To revive momentum, the governors, each bringing along a major corporate executive, will try to move from the general goals of 1989 toward the establishment of specific, rigorous standards of what students must learn in different subject areas. The intent is to link mastery of those subjects with promotion to the next grade, something that is missing from many state systems. A high school diploma would be more than the worthless scrap of paper that many fear it has become. The other item on their agenda is to bring better computers and technology into the schools.

"The strength that standards have in other countries is that this is what your whole society expects of you," Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, says in materials put together for the conference. "It's so universal that it's not questioned."

School for Citizens

Proponents of setting specific standards and holding children to them say they would be one antidote to grade inflation, so-called social promotions and institutionalized assumptions, including the widespread belief that many poor and black children cannot learn.

At a time of economic uneasiness and worries that the schools are failing to turn out adequately educated graduates for the workplace, the conference has an unapologetically utilitarian stance, and includes more corporate executives than educators.

Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado said: "The executives are saying, 'We're the customers for your products, meaning the graduates of the schools. We have something to say about what kind of products they ought to be.' And what in the world do you go to school for other than to become good citizens and get a job and raise a family?"

To some educators, that viewpoint, students as little more than future employees-in-training and the conference's emphasis on standards reflects a distressingly mechanistic image of education. Many see the focus on standards as overly simplistic, assuming high standards will overcome

myriad social and cultural impediments to learning.

"The public debate and the political debate is mainly about all the wrong things," said Edward Miller, editor of the Harvard Education Letter. "People who actually work in schools are talking about completely different things than governors and politicians are."

While politicians are talking about vouchers and standards, Mr. Miller said, teachers are concerned about motivating children unprepared for and uninterested in learning, teaching disabled ones once routinely excluded or educating students unable to speak English well. Many say that a more useful approach to standards is to specify what money, technology or other materials should be available to all schools.

Few educators argue against standards, but there has been such a strong anti-Washington current since 1989 that few of them are advocating national standards. Many educators share a widely held belief that the sense of educational crisis and failure today represents a curious disconnect between what is wrong with education and how that fits into broader problems of American life.

It's the Culture, Stupid

"The intellectual level of the schools can be no higher than the intellectual level of the culture in which they float," said Richard Gibbonney, an education professor at the University of Pennsylvania and the former Vermont Commissioner of Education. "You look at TV. You look at our commercial culture. What you see in society is what you see in the schools."

And the So-So Winner Is ...

Hey, What's Talent Got to Do With It?

By BERNARD WEINRAUB

CHARLIE CHAPLIN never won an Oscar. Neither did Greta Garbo, Alfred Hitchcock, Barbara Stanwyck or Cary Grant. Marilyn Monroe was never even nominated for one.

"As much as I love the Oscar night pageantry," Jodie Foster once remarked, "it's a silly bingo game." Easy for Ms. Foster to say. She won Academy Awards in 1988 and 1991.

Is there anyone who won't be watching the silly bingo game on television tomorrow? The annual Academy Awards, which Truman Capote once described as "all politics and sentiment and nothing to do with merit," were launched in 1929 by Louis B. Mayer and other movie moguls to honor the best in American film.

The best? It's well known that all kinds of people are nominated for the awards and win and lose for all the wrong reasons. "Comebacks are very big," said Damien Bona, co-author with Mason Wiley of "Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards" (Ballantine Books, 1986), which is updated regularly. "There was Jack Palance in '91. This year Richard Dreyfuss was nominated."

"There's the rewarding of a career. That's always a major category," Mr. Bona said. "This year it's Susan Sarandon. And there's the 'Gosh, we didn't know you had it in you' category. People known for tight dramatic abilities who take on strong dramatic roles. This year it's Sharon Stone. Over the years it's been people like Ginger Rogers, Shirley Jones, Dan Ackroyd and Red Buttons."

A Fever to Win

It also helps to be very sick. Or even dead. Peter Finch, the only nominated actor to die before the awards ceremony, was chosen best actor for "Network" in 1976. This year Massimo Troisi, who postponed a crucially needed heart operation and gave his life to make "The Postman," was nominated for best actor. He's not favored to win because most Academy voters never heard of him.

Even Katherine Hepburn acknowledged that she probably won best actress award in 1967 for "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," over such actresses as Faye Dunaway in "Bonnie and Clyde" and Anne Bancroft in "The Graduate," because Spencer Tracy, her longtime lover, had just died. ("I'm glad I won it for Spence," she said.) A seriously ill Henry Fonda won best actor in 1981 for "On Golden Pond" despite the brilliant performance of another nominee, Burt Lancaster, in "Atlantic City."

Probably the prime example of someone who won an Oscar for being sick was Elizabeth Taylor for



Rocco Mattio was bliss making Oscars in 1974; George Burns was happier taking one from the lot in 1975.

"Butterfield 8" in 1960. When she saw the movie for the first and last time, Miss Taylor threw her shoes at the screen in anger, according to the book "Behind the Oscar: The Secret History of the Academy Awards" (Simon & Schuster, 1993), by Anthony Holden. But an emergency tracheotomy, which left her close to death, was enough to sway Academy voters. (In fairness, she had been bypassed for her acclaimed roles in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Suddenly Last Summer.") Miss Taylor had a dramatic — some said miraculous — recovery when she hobbled on stage to get her Oscar. Her competitors were not exactly pleased. "I lost to a Her competitor who was not exactly pleased," grumbled Shirley MacLaine, nominated that year for "The Apartment."

There are other ways of winning. "There's the 'Tell

everyone you don't want it and if you win it you won't accept it' ploy," said Jeanine Basinger, head of the film studies department at Wesleyan University. "Marlon Brando and George C. Scott did that."

"There's also 'Lie low and wait till you're old' award," she said. "That's Ruth Gordon in 'Rosemary's Baby' and George Burns in 'The Sunshine Boys.'"

Ms. Basinger, who wrote "A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women, 1930-1960" (Knopf, 1993), said: "Oscars go to actresses who play prostitutes, nuns, cripples or mutes — Hollywood loves women who don't speak. Oscar also likes women who are beautiful but wear no makeup — it's called serious acting."

Of the nominees for best actress this year, Sharon Stone and Elisabeth Shue played prostitutes, and Susan

Teachers, Teach Thyselves

THIS month the National Council of Teachers of English released "Standards for the English Language Arts," which outlined, in mind-numbing terms, what students from kindergarten to 12th grade should learn. Tucked in it was a glossary that defined obscure words like "listening" and "speaking." Below are excerpts.

SARAH BOXER

appreciation Thoughtful awareness of value; personal understanding and respect for; judgments made with heightened perception and understanding.

audience The collection of intended readers, listeners or viewers for a particular work or performance.

fiction Imaginative literary, oral or visual works representing invented, rather than actual persons places and events.

grammar The means by which the different components of language can be put together in groups of sounds and written or visual symbols so that ideas, feelings and images can be communicated; what one knows about the structure and use of one's own language that leads to its creative and communicative use.

inquiry A mode of research driven by the learner's desire to look deeply into a question or an idea that interests him or her.

listening Attending to communication by

any means; includes listening to vocal speech, watching signing or using communication aids.

punctuation An orthographic system that separates linguistic units, clarifies meaning and can be used by writers and readers to give speech characteristics to written materials.

reading The complex, recursive process through which we make meaning from texts, using semantics; syntax; visual, aural and tactile cues; context, and prior knowledge.

speaking The act of communication through such means as vocalization, signing or using communication aids such as voice synthesizers.

spelling The process of representing language by means of a writing system or orthography.

vocabulary The words known or used by a person or group, including the specialized meanings that words acquire when they are used for technical purposes, regional usages and slang.

writing 1. The use of a writing system or orthography by people in the conduct of their daily lives to communicate over time and space. 2. The process or result of recording language graphically by hand or other means, as by the use of computers or braille.

Sarandon a nun.

This year 5,043 Academy members voted by secret ballot. The membership includes actors, writers, producers and directors as well as costume designers, cinematographers, film editors, sound effects technicians and makeup specialists, among other categories.

Because artistry is usually not the issue at the Oscars, movie buffs remain in various levels of outrage at what they view as the oversights, snubs and silliness of the nominations and awards. Nicole Kidman and John Travolta were not even nominated, even though they were widely considered contenders for their striking performances in "To Die For" and "Get Shorty." The conventional wisdom is that Academy voters abhor dark comedies and favor big, splashy movies like

To improve the Oscar odds: play prostitutes or mutes; get sick or die.

"Braveheart" and "Apollo 13," which were both nominated. The other films nominated are "Babe," "The Postman" and "Sense and Sensibility."

Jennifer Jason-Leigh, who played a failed rock singer in "Georgia," was passed over perhaps because she doesn't play the Hollywood game — show up at the parties, give the interviews, behave like a star.

Terry Press, an executive at Dreamworks, still recalls the outrage of her father, who kicked the television set during the 1956 Oscars when Yul Brynner won the best actor award for "The King and I" over Kirk Douglas in "Lust for Life." "He didn't watch for five years after that," he said.

Ms. Press pointed out plenty of other odd choices. "How Green Was My Valley" beat "Citizen Kane" as best picture in 1941. Judy Holliday won best actress in 1950 for "Born Yesterday" over Gilda Swanson in "Sunset Boulevard" and Bette Davis and Anne Baxter in "All About Eve." (Hollywood is overawed by Broadway stars who repeat their stage roles on the screen.)

All this annoyance by fans obscures the fact that the Oscar ceremonies are often just a frilly show that shouldn't be taken too seriously. Shortly after the first Oscar show in 1929, Frances Marion, an MGM screenwriter, wrote one of the first and probably most acerbic comments about the award.

"The little gold-washed statuette was thought, by skeptics and art lovers, a bit on the absurd side," he said. "Still, I see it as the perfect symbol of the picture business: a powerful athletic body clutching a gleaming sword with half of his head, that part which holds the brain, completely sliced off."

The World

The Idea of Europe Trips Over the Real Thing

By RICHARD W. STEVENSON

AFTER two vicious wars, the peace and prosperity enjoyed by Western Europe in the second half of this century can be attributed in good part to a single act in the early 1950's, or at least to the idea behind it.

The act was the decision by France and Germany to eliminate the trade barriers between their coal and steel industries — the very engines of their war machines — and thus create a degree of interdependence between the nations. And the idea was that through such mundane economic links, one following the next, the interests of Europe's ancient rivals could be bound inextricably, providing a foundation for peace and an opening perhaps to create a United States of Europe.

As played out over the last four and a half decades, the idea has proven remarkably successful. It led to a common market across Western Europe and reached a logical climax in 1991 with the unveiling of grandiose new plans, notably for a single currency. In a broader sense, it fostered a degree of political cooperation that ultimately helped bury the twin realities that ever since the mid-1940's had hung menacingly over Western Europe: the cold war and the division of Germany.

But now the idea of an ever-more-united Europe may be a victim of its own success. In the absence of a common threat, the process of further integration is sputtering or even stalling, and Europe is beginning to wonder whether it has reached the limits of the strategy of unification.

So on Friday the European Union's member nations, now 15 strong but uncertain of where they are headed, will gather in a Fiat factory in Turin, Italy, in search of a new vision for Europe in the next century.

Ready, Set, Crawl

It will in many ways be a frustrating experience. As much as some nations, Germany in particular, might like to set grand goals as a way of restoring momentum to that process, even the Germans acknowledge that the best they can hope for will be far more prosaic (if no less critical): to hold on to the degree of unity the union has already achieved as it expands, even if slowly, across the continent in a time of great economic and political upheaval.

The problem is not just that the absence of a common enemy has stripped Europe of its motivation to focus on common goals. It is also that many of Europe's problems in the mid-1990's — rising unem-

ployment, declining international competitiveness, an inability to pay for traditionally generous social welfare benefits — do not necessarily lend themselves to common solutions. Indeed, in an increasingly competitive global economy, they could spark a resurgence in nationalism, especially if Europe's leaders cannot find — or choose not to seek — compelling reasons why their citizens should consider themselves Europeans.

In immediate terms, the union's growing membership and the corresponding welter of cultural, economic and political imperatives are straining its ability to reach consensus about anything — indeed, about how to reach a consensus. The practical problems of policy making and governance will only grow worse, with up to a dozen other countries, most from the former Soviet bloc, clamoring for admittance over the next decade, even if the strategic challenge of integrating former enemies is a welcome one.

For the last four years, the group has counted on the plan to adopt a common monetary policy and a single currency by 1999 to drive its integration efforts. But hopes of achieving that goal on schedule, at least among more than a small group, have already dimmed, as has the whole strategy of using economics as a Trojan horse for political unity.

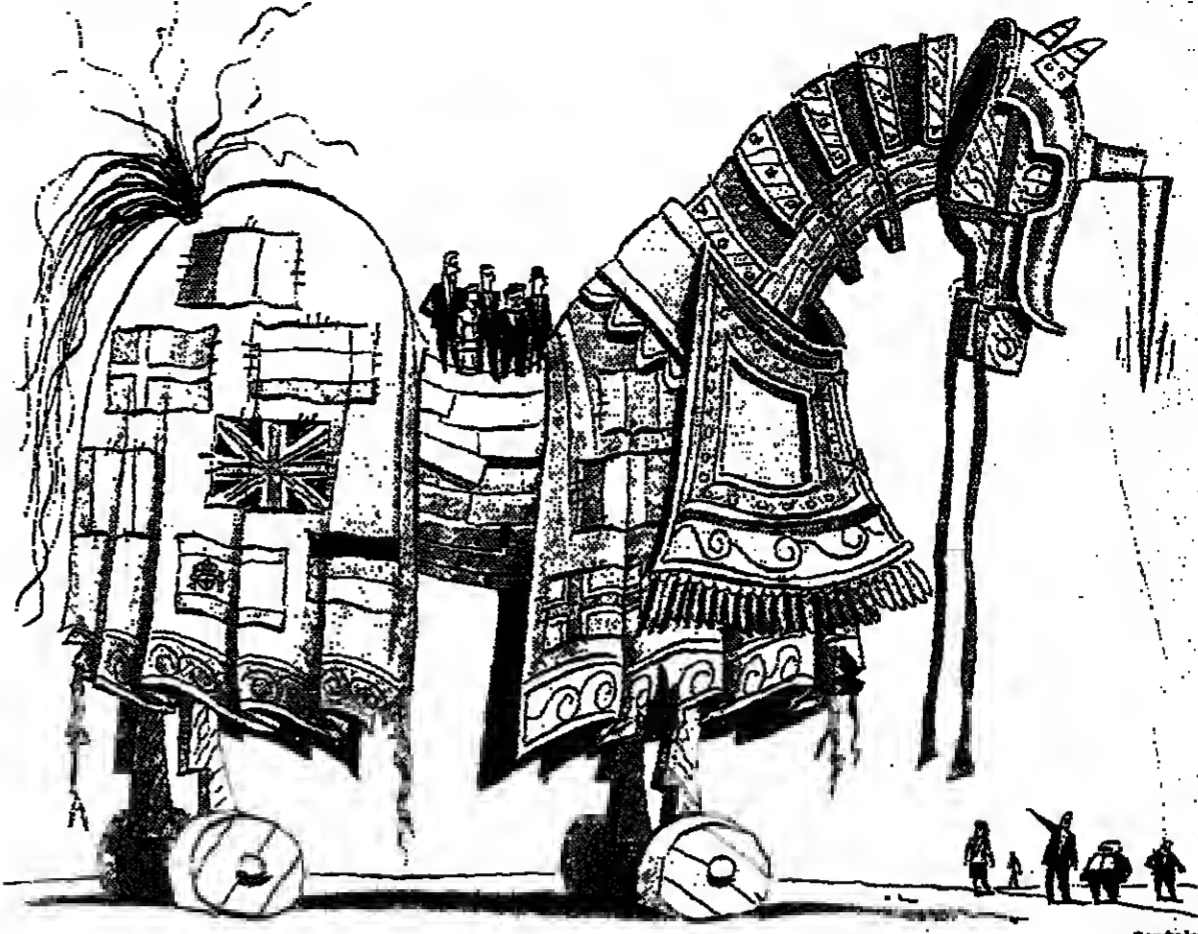
Most of the governments are under pressure to

The leaders are meeting again to plan the future, but now their sights are low.

focus more on domestic priorities and less on European obligations — particularly when it comes to the belt-tightening required if there is to be a single currency. And the hopes expressed in 1991 of moving toward a common foreign policy were exposed as empty by the union's inability to deal with the war in Bosnia.

So for the first time, the union's leaders will be confronting the likelihood that their nations are not only not moving inexorably closer, but risk drifting apart.

Not all think that is such a bad thing. Prime Minister John Major of Britain, for one, would be happy to see the notion of a truly federal Europe killed off. But even among those most committed to continuing integration, notably Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, there is a recognition that such diverse European



Randy Jones

countries cannot expect unanimity any longer. And look as they might, no one can find a 1996 version of Jean Monnet, the visionary French bureaucrat who pushed for creation of the Coal and Steel Community and whose dogged advocacy of integration by economic means made him among the most influential Europeans of this half century.

"The community has already reached a high water mark in integration," said Paul Whiteley, a professor of government at the College of William and Mary who is doing research this year at Sheffield University in Britain. "Monetary union had been seen as the way forward. My difficulty now and that of others is in seeing some sort of big idea analogous to those of the American founding fathers that will inspire and promote new enthusiasm for European integration and that will take it to a new plane."

How to Decide?

The gathering in Turin, designed to review progress toward the grand goals set in 1991, is a kickoff to a year or more of rolling discussions among government officials. Its will encompass issues such as police cooperation, immigration standards, common social welfare and tax policies, and monetary union.

But the most contentious discussions are likely to be about how the group should make decisions as its membership expands, and about the extent to which individual nations should be allowed to participate in some aspects of the union and not in others.

Most nations, led by Germany and France, want the union to abandon its traditional practice of requiring unanimity for new policies. The French and Germans, backed by the Brussels bureaucracy, fear that Britain, which under the Conservatives has been hostile to any encroachment by the union on national sovereignty, will stymie their more ambitious plans.

They also recognize that with the addition of every new member, it becomes that much harder to reach agreements that satisfy all.

The conference will consider proposals such as giving nations voting power in proportion to their size, but requiring only a majority of votes for new policies.

The question of voting power is closely related to that of how to make the union, which long operated on the basis that all members went ahead together on all fronts, more flexible. That tradition began breaking down four years ago when Britain negotiated the right to opt out of the currency union. Now even France and Germany recognize that it is unworkable.

Several models are under consideration. One, dubbed à la carte, would allow each nation to choose which aspects of the union it wanted to participate in. The one most likely to prevail is known as the concentric rings. It would allow core groups to go ahead with certain plans, with the idea that others, while not exempt from participating, would follow along later.

But many European diplomats are troubled by another model, dubbed the bicycle. This analogy holds that Europe must retain forward momentum. If it is capable only of holding still, it will topple over.

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Sunrise in Japan — Not

Continued from page 1

ideals — and yet is so unhappy with the results. This underscores that the kind of values that Americans yearn for, even if they can be achieved, carry a price.

Japan's social discipline may be admirable, but one person's discipline is another's regimentation. Take the respect for police officers, who are not called "pigs" but "Honorable Mr. Walkabout." The police's power to detain suspects is heartwarming if you fear robbery, but less so if you are stopped on the street because you look "suspicious" and are asked to empty your pockets, or to go to the police station for an interview. Americans would never accept the rule that all people register their addresses with the Government.

These days, Americans from President Clinton on down seem to think that school uniforms are a good way to cultivate discipline. At first glance, Japan would appear to be the model: all junior high school students wear uniforms, and they are not normally allowed to take money to school, wear watches or stop off on the way between home and school.

Yet just as Americans are thinking of whether to expand the use of school uniforms, Japanese schools are thinking of moving away from them. Some principals say uniforms eventually may be banished because they stifle creativity, and dress codes already are being relaxed. A generation ago, there was no incontrovertible evidence that school girls had knees, because none were ever sighted. These days, in the cities, skirts have hiked up so high that amateur biologists can ascertain that school girls have not only knees but also thighs.

Gum-Free Zones

The broader vision of schools as military academies is also wearing thin in Japan. Gum, for example, traditionally was regarded in Japanese schools the way drugs are in American schools, and recently a teacher slapped a 15-year-old boy for chewing gum before class. The blow injured the boy's eardrum, and this time the teacher was ordered to apologize to the student.

Japanese students are far ahead of their American counterparts, especially in math and science and music. But there are growing calls in Japan to change the educational system on the ground that it teaches children to memorize but not to think. It is true that on standardized international tests Japanese children fare much better in solving math equations than in solving math story problems. (But it is not clear that Americans should be greatly cheered that Japanese students are four times better at equations and only twice as good at story problems as kids in the United States.)

"In education, in any subject where there's a correct answer, Japanese training has been very good," said Mr. Ozawa, the opposition leader. "But we have to change that to a system where there's more than one correct answer, to one that strengthens the individual, that increases creativity. And to do that we need to change company entrance examinations, indeed, the whole system of employment."

Americans often complain that crucial national decisions are made for political reasons, by politicians with blow-dried hair and brains. But Japan offers a glimpse of the alternative: crucial national decisions made by brilliant, well-trained, virtually incorruptible bureaucrats. The Japanese long instead for politicians to make decisions on the basis of what people want.

"The underbelly of this exquisite society is beginning to surface," said Robert Jay Lifton, a professor of psychology and psychiatry who has written extensively about Japan and America. Mr. Lifton added: "The Japanese are seething within."



Cosmic Shiver

By Dennis Overbye

STONE RIDGE, N.Y. I write this with trembling hands, because I haven't yet seen Comet Hyakutake — the great spring comet that silently invaded our skies last week. Tomorrow will be the Night of the Comet, when it will be a mere 10 million miles from Earth and appear fat as a full moon, although much dimmer. An amateur astronomer who saw its tail last week reported on the Great Canadian Hair Star Party (one of the dozens of World Wide Web sites that have sprung up to celebrate the apparition) that it literally sent a shiver down his spine. "Now I know why comets used to frighten people," he wrote.

That's a different kind of shiver than one gets from watching the stock market drop 171 points on news of rising employment. I want to experience that shiver, that primordial tin-

Dennis Overbye is the author of "Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos."

gle — and I'm not the only one. Around the Northern Hemisphere, amateur astronomers are succumbing to comet fever, staying up all night in the still freezing darkness, straggling into work bleary-eyed with cosmic visions. Beauty, the poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, is dimly perceived terror. And the fairy glow of comets has a long history of producing a delicious shiver in human psyches. A fourth-century B.C. Chinese booklet listed 27 different forms of comets and the disasters they presaged, from wars to famines. The Stoic philosopher Seneca attributed comets' power to their airy contravention of the established order — appearing without warning. Shakespeare, following Augustus Caesar himself, linked the assassination of Julius Caesar with the great comet of 44 B.C. Milton imagined pestilence and war raining from the comet's tail as if from Satan's hair. In 1910, people took pills to protect against poison gas in the tail of Halley's Comet.

Of course we know now from spacecraft photos that comets are just blackened snowballs volatilizing in the sunlight. Save being locked in a room with Patrick Buchanan, a good case of

Old Testament cosmic dread is hard to come by in this age of machines. Any of us can download images taken from the Hubble Space Telescope of galaxies billions of light-years away. Some can even explain how those images are procured. But none of us can really comprehend the immensity of the gulfs of space and time they portray. Who can measure his stride against a light year?

Ten years ago this week, I was standing in the Australian outback with several thousand other astronomical tourists waiting for Halley's Comet, looking forward to a dose of Rilkean terror. Halley was long on science — it spawned the launch of a half dozen spacecraft — but short on pyrotechnics. The lesson being that the universe is a big place, and the show's not always going to be for you. Astronomers had been touting Comet Hale-Bopp, due a year from now, as the next Great Comet. Then in January a Japanese amateur, Yuji Hyakutake, saw through his binoculars a smudgy patch of light near the constellation Libra. A Great Comet was already on our doorstep.

Comet Hyakutake is a gift at the end

of the worst winter on record in the East. If it means anything, let it mean spring. It could be a vision for the ages, a pearly smooch staring down over Central Park like the eye of God. Or it could fizzle. I'm trembling because I don't want to be fooled again. Surprise is the signature of cometary astronomy. We are hostages of

Comet Hyakutake is a gift from the heavens.

The universe. But not all news that arrives in the middle of the night is bad. More than we like to admit, things happen and we don't know why. The space shuttle tether snaps, the stock market goes up, the ozone layer goes down, the Einstein manuscript doesn't sell.

Later, of course, we always manage to come up with an explanation. Just as in hindsight we can find a catastrophe for every comet: Halley's feeble appearance was bracketed by the Challenger explosion and the Chernobyl accident. We will find reasons. But for a moment we're clueless, like children reduced to staring.

This time, the show really is for us. Later this week, we will reconceive ourselves that we are masters of the universe with our ever more clever Web browsers, our genome maps and our hedge funds. But tomorrow it will be O.K. to feel that old primordial tingle on the hairs on the back of your neck. Pray for clear skies.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

The Last Laugh

WASHINGTON

Don Imus knew something was awry when he made a raunchy joke about President Clinton and looked over to check his reaction.

"I can't even describe his face," the New York radio show host said. "If he'd had a gun, he'd a shot me. I was talking to him like I was sitting next to him on a bar stool. I did not want to go down there and be a weasel. You've got a big mouth on radio and then you say it face to face to these people and it's a different story. All this is hypocrisy. It was watered down, believe me. I wanted to have a joke about how the President could combat charges of womanizing by becoming a Mormon. And if we had four or five First Ladies, America was bound to like one of them."

Nobody in the capital is talking about China or Colin Powell. All anyone can talk about is Don Imus. His after-dinner monologue before the media and political establishment at the Radio-Television Correspondents Association dinner Thursday has thrown the capital into a kerfuffle.

With the Clintons trapped on the dais, growing more and more uncomfortable — "I heard the First Lady say, 'Oh, my God,' when I did the joke about Peter Jennings and the intern," Mr. Imus recalls — the cadaverous comedian did 30 minutes of the same tasteless, over-the-top, disrespectful humor he has been doing on radio for a quarter of a century. But, somehow, the company was shocked, shocked, that the shock jock was shocking.

The black-tie audience looked as if it was caught in a "Friday the 13th" movie, half-smiles frozen.

"I didn't have much time," Mr. Imus mused afterward. "And there were so many people to butcher."

Whoever thought we'd need a V-chip for C-SPAN? Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman, called C-SPAN executives and asked them not to rebroadcast the "tasteless" monologue. C-SPAN refused. The most boring and polite channel on earth had never before been accused of pandering, licentiousness and bad taste. But it recognized a hit when it saw one. After those endless hours trained on a deserted Senate chamber, C-SPAN cameras had captured the stunning spectacle of a cherished Washington ritual imploding.

The Radio-Television Correspondents Association sent a letter of apology to the President, and the media

stars and pols who do guest spots on the Imus show began, as one put it, "running for the hills."

Cokie Roberts of ABC said she would never go on again, noting, "You can't make fun of the President when he's sitting right there."

But it was the President, after all, who "certified Imus's influence," as New York Magazine put it, when he went on the show during the 1992 New York primary. To go over the head of the establishment media, Mr. Clinton traded down to Imus, Phil Donahue and MTV. Mr. Imus called him "Bubba," and Mr. Clinton said Bubba was Southern for "mensch."

Mr. Clinton was playing with fire. The candidate who used Mr. Imus to showcase his populism is now the President who wants more respect. But the Bubba jokes are coming home to roost.

Bubba no more.

Washington press dinners are based on a charade. If political humor is going to be really funny, it has to be in polite. But the press and the pols want to cozy up, so the comedy is supposed to singe but never burn, as the Gridiron motto goes.

Mr. Imus may have been coarser than his predecessors, but I remember cringing as I watched Paula Poundstone go after President Bush at a White House press dinner, and again another year when Sinbad taunted Barbara Bush about looking like a grandmother.

The President and First Lady should not have to subject themselves to evenings like this, fraternizing with their critics and getting roasted by what Tom Brokaw calls "low-rent lounge acts."

And Don Imus should not be expected to be Garrison Keillor. "You put a shark in the bathtub, it's gonna eat the fish," says Jeff Greenfield of ABC. "Did they expect Bob Hope material about Clinton's golf game?"

White House officials snubbed Mr. Imus after his speech. I asked the tormentor how it feels to be the pariah. "It doesn't get any better than this," he said, with a low chuckle.

Clinton's Gunboat Diplomacy

By James Shinn

As revelers made their way home through the streets of Taipei yesterday after celebrating Taiwan's first democratic presidential election, Beijing and Washington were no doubt sharing some sobering reflections.

For 20 years, Taiwan has been suspended in strategic ambiguity, with the United States saying, in effect, "If Taiwan declares independence, don't count on us; if China invades Taiwan, don't count on us." Now this ambiguity has been shattered.

China's missile tests and military exercises, while provocative, fell short of an invasion. Why did President Clinton up the ante so drastically, sending in the nuclear gunboats and discarding a Taiwan policy that had stood the test of two decades?

If Mr. Clinton consults his diplomatic advisers, they will point out that Taiwan has no allies in Asia. In contrast to the Desert Storm coalition that fought the Persian Gulf war, the

James Shinn, senior fellow for Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of "Weaving the Net: Conditional Engagement with China."

United States stands alone on Taiwan. Japan and South Korea would likely resist using American bases on their soil in a conflict with China. Our security system in Asia could unravel.

If Mr. Clinton asks his pollsters, they will tell him that Taiwan is not a popular issue with the American public. Only 26 percent favor sending in the carriers; only 29 percent support the use of American troops if China invades.

If he listens to his generals, they will tell him that aircraft carriers can win any battle around Taiwan — but then what? If China keeps up military pressure on the island, what is the Seventh Fleet supposed to do? Bombs away? China has a vibrant economy, a huge army and nuclear weapons.

So whom did Bill Clinton listen to? Probably his campaign advisers, who may well have argued that despite the polls, military muscle-flexing in an election year is usually worth a few million votes. The President can bask in the statesman's limelight, which is more fun than haggling with Newt Gingrich over the budget.

But how statesmanlike is it to risk a battle with the wrong adversary? China is not a rogue regime and not necessarily fated to be an enemy. It is not the Evil Empire, yet we hold Beijing to a barsher standard than we apply to Moscow today. We deploy

aircraft carriers when the Chinese threaten Taiwan, yet we embrace Boris Yeltsin when he slaughters 30,000 citizens in Chechnya.

Where to go from here? For starters, the White House should stare clearly, with more realism and less ambiguity, that if Taiwan declares independence, count us out; if China invades, count us in. But withdraw the gunboats now. Show Taipei to restart negotiations with Beijing on peaceful reunification — with China accepting Taiwan's legitimate "international space" for economic and cultural purposes, in exchange for Taiwan's renouncing any bid for political independence. And hope that booming cross-strait trade and investment will strengthen the hand of moderate voices on both sides.

In the meantime, Bill Clinton should hope that neither creeping independence from Taiwan, nor creeping provocation from China, come back to haunt him before Nov. 5.

Taiwan's election, and ours.

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Help Wanted: Deal Makers

WASHINGTON In many ways the immediate Taiwan crisis ended two weeks ago. On March 8, the U.S. national security adviser, Anthony Lake, met privately with his Chinese counterpart, Liu Hua Qui, at Pamela Harriman's farm in Middleburg, Va. The conclusion of their daylong meeting was an "understanding" that went like this: The U.S. would use its influence to try to restrain Taiwan from any more far-reaching moves toward independence, and in return Beijing would not use military force to resolve its current dispute with Taipei.

But having defused the short-term crisis, both sides understood that a longer-term deal had to be struck that would stabilize relations between China and Taiwan. There is such a deal to be had. This is not a Greek tragedy fated to end badly.

Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-bui, should vow that Taiwan will not now pursue full independence by seeking membership in institutions such as the U.N., and China should vow that while it remains committed to eventual reunification with Taiwan, it will only seek to accomplish this through peaceful means. In exchange for assurances from Taiwan that it will not pursue creeping, unilateral independence, China should also commit itself to allowing Taiwan a higher profile on the world stage. This could be anything from observer status in the U.N. to membership in the I.M.F. and World Bank. Taiwan would thrive from such a deal. It would have de facto independence, de jure democracy, flourishing capitalism and time — time for history to take its course and

China-Taiwan: the deal.

transform China into a state that Taiwan could more easily coexist with. Beijing, meanwhile, could claim victory — that its sovereignty was not being dismembered.

What worries me is not that there isn't a subtle, long-term deal to be had. What worries me is that there aren't the subtle deal makers to make it happen.

In Beijing, China's now-incapacitated Deng Xiaoping was the sort of leader who could strike a tough, nuanced deal. But Mr. Deng's successor, Jiang Zemin, doesn't have such clout, and in the ongoing power struggle in Beijing, Mr. Jiang's rivals seem intent on using any sign of nuance on his part regarding Taiwan as a sign of weakness to be turned against him.

In Taiwan, President Lee deserves great credit for skillfully shepherding his country to democracy. But he is a complicated man — born in Taiwan, educated in Japan and America. His heart is Taiwanese, his grammar is Japanese, his ideals Western and his leadership style Confucian aloofness. Mr. Lee does not have a good feel for mainland China, and by winning 54 percent of the vote in the presidential election, I fear he may get even more cocky in his dealings with Beijing. As for the rest of Asia, I recently

met with one of the region's elder statesmen and asked him why Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand didn't play a more assertive role with China and help the U.S. resolve the crisis. He answered: "China has been around here for 3,000 years. The U.S. has been out here in Asia for about 50 years. We figure you're maybe good for another 20 years. But after that you'll be gone, and we'll be left here alone with China. We can't afford a confrontation." Thanks a lot.

Finally, in Washington, the Clinton Administration has been all over the board on China. It came in vowing to tame the "dictators in Beijing," then opted for a policy of engagement. But without any adult supervision, every arm of the government (and Congress) just engaged Beijing in its own way, with no overall strategy. U.S. China policy drifted aimlessly, which is one reason why this crisis went as far as it did. It is shocking how little attention China has been given compared with Syria or Israel or Bosnia.

It's time for President Clinton to lead on this issue. He will be in Japan in mid-April. Why doesn't he also go to Beijing and try to help foster a new deal between Taiwan and China? If U.S. officials can embrace Slobodan Milosevic, Hafez al-Assad and Boris Yeltsin (who has killed a lot more civilians in Chechnya than the Chinese ever did in Tiananmen), then they can have a sustained dialogue with the Chinese. The opportunities are so great. The stakes are so high. It would be nice if at least one statesman rose to the occasion. Who knows, others might just follow.

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MUSIC

How Three Tenors Became a Marketing Juggernaut

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

THE idea was big, and fittingly it came from the big man himself, Luciano Pavarotti. It came to him at a big event, the 1994 sellout "Three Tenors" concert at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, an extravaganza beamed to 1.3 billion television viewers worldwide, four years after the trio's smash debut in the ruins of ancient Rome, which generated the largest-selling classical recording of all time.

Backstage at the stadium, behind the mock rain forest, with its four-story waterfalls and pseudo-classical pillars, Mr. Pavarotti turned to his partners, José Carreras and Plácido Domingo, and said (as he later rendered it in his fluid if slightly stilted English): "Why not doing this around the world?"

And so it has come to pass. In June, the tenors will embark on a ballyhooed four-continent circuit of some of the world's largest outdoor arenas — "Three Tenors III," in effect. Already it is growing to colossal proportions in a triumph of marketing and song. The original five stops — including one American appearance, at Giants Stadium on July 20 — have ballooned to at least nine, counting newly booked concerts in Göteborg, Sweden, and Düsseldorf, Germany, and a New Year's Eve gala yet to be announced. There are also plans for a concert at the World Cup soccer championship in Paris in 1998.

Although the onslaught is still almost three months off, the heart of the event, the marketing, is already churning at full tilt. Crews around the world have been working for months readying and tuning instruments of commerce and technology that render the musical instruments almost incidental. The "Three Tenors" phenomenon has become an indomitable force.

But music aside, as skeptics say it is, could these bookings overexpose an act that has already been beamed to half the world's population — and recently became a running gag on "Seinfeld"? It is a risk the tenors are willing to take.

"If it's too much, we don't do any more," said Mr. Pavarotti in a recent conversation from Barbados, where he was vacationing. "But for the moment, it's better we do while we are still here."

The repertoire should hold few surprises, he said. "More or less the same as last time." So get ready again for the likes of "Granada," "La donna è mobile," "Vesti la giubba," a medley of "My Way," "Moon River" and "Singin' in the Rain," and Mr. Pavarotti's signature crowd-pleaser, "Nessun dorma" from "Turandot."

If it's not high operatic art, it's aimed unashamedly at a vast, adoring and financially supportive audience. From the moment the three kick off their tour in Tokyo on June 29, records — the Guinness kind — are likely to go flying.

The tour is costing the promoter, Matthias Hoffmann of Mannheim, Germany, about \$100 million (including an insurance bill of \$1.5 million to cover refunds in case of cancellation). If all 500,000 seats are sold at an average price of \$240 each, ticket revenues would reach \$120 million, not counting merchandizing tie-ins, pay-per-view and other television rights.

For their appearances, Maestros Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti stand to make close to \$10 million each: about \$500,000 per concert in fees and a like amount in licensing income. James Levine, who is replacing Zubin Mehta as conductor, will get a flat \$500,000 per concert.

"Good money, eh?" Mr. Pavarotti said. "By God, it's good money!"

Whew! Was classical music ever like this? No and yes.

The numbers are certainly groundbreaking. In their first two concerts, the tenors reached a combined television audience of about two billion people. Audio and video recordings have sold 23 million copies, to become far and away the best-selling classical recordings of all time (more or less matching what Michael Jackson achieved with a single album, "Dangerous," in 1991).

Clearly, even for tenors — who have historically won adulation for their acrobatics on the high Cs — the three have achieved an enviable crossover: opera singers adored like rock stars, classical icons clasped to the collective bosom of millions of fans who have never stepped inside an opera house. But although modern technology has spectacularly magnified the effect, the phenomenon itself is hardly unique.

"I wonder if P. T. Barnum would have anything to learn from today's marketing," said Morris Dickstein, a cultural historian at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. Barnum, the shameless showman, repackaged the soprano Jenny Lind as a popular attraction and booked her around the tent circuit that served as the mass entertainment of the 19th century.

"Classical music has always brought us a few superstars, usually in opera," said Mr. Dickstein. Certainly, the tenor Enrico Caruso, who lived from 1873 to 1921, was a cult figure who inspired widespread fan hysteria in his prime. "I'm sure that when he made his first recordings for RCA Victor," Mr. Dickstein said,



Indomitable Force Pavarotti, Carreras and Domingo performed in 1994. The act has been beamed to half the world's population and provided a page on "Seinfeld."

"people thought he was betraying opera."

Even the three tenors' propensity to mix arias with pop repertoire has venerable precedents, Mr. Dickstein added. The early operatic tradition was much more open to opera lite, including operetta and Neapolitan songs. Wagner, he explained, helped steer opera toward serious, unified productions. Verdi, on the other hand, might have fancied "The Three Tenors."

"Americans have a long history of adoration of the virtuoso," said the cultural historian Ann Douglas, author of "Terrible Honesty: Mongrel Manhattan in the 1920's." At times, she said, the fixations have verged on the campy, as when Caruso was lured to the vaudeville stage to appear with Al Jolson.

"It's as if we say, 'The great artists are ours; we can rough them up, have fun with them,'" she said. At times, she added, the three tenors "seem on the edge of satirizing themselves."

Tibor Rudas, Mr. Pavarotti's Hungarian-born promoter, disdains the carping of music and social critics. "We didn't realize in Rome that we created the Beatles for the senior citizens," he said. "It's something the people have been waiting for for a long time. Only nobody knew they were waiting for it."

Michael Sampliner, the New York director of Hoffmann Concerts, agrees: "You could say the three tenors have created their own form of alternative music."

Mr. Hoffmann does not begrudge the tenors their hefty fees. "If Janet Jackson can sign a deal for \$80 million," he said, "the three tenors are totally, totally underpaid."

Whatever the ultimate musical judgments, the marketing blitz seems clearly aimed at fomenting a global tenor mania.

Behind the latest hoopla is a modern-day tale of Hoffmann — Matthias Hoffmann, that is, promoter of Mr. Carreras and Mr. Domingo. By persistence or default, Mr. Hoffmann assumed the presenter's role from Mr. Rudas, a Las Vegas-trained impresario who put on the Los Angeles concert during the last World Cup festivities.

Mr. Hoffmann, a 45-year-old entrepreneur who dropped out of Mannheim University in 1970 to present a rock festival that became known as the German Woodstock, said that Mr. Pavarotti worried initially that no promoter would be crazy enough to take on an international tour of such proportions. Whereupon Mr. Carreras and Mr. Domingo responded more or less in unison, "Oh, we have one, and he's crazy and waits for nothing more than to do a 'Three Tenors' concert." Mr. Pavarotti said he was at first dubious about putting the tour in the hands of any promoter other than his own, but he realized that his colleagues' promoter deserved a chance.

Mr. Hoffmann said that he had offered to make Mr. Rudas a joint presenter of the tour — sharing both risk and potential profits — but that Mr. Rudas declined. Instead, Mr. Rudas sold Mr. Hoffmann his Los Angeles production to insure the quality of amplified sound and lighting at the concerts for around \$500,000. "I would have been prepared to present it; yes, I would have, but I'm a very fair man," Mr. Rudas said from his office in Pacific Grove, Calif. "It was quite a fair request."

Feelings are still sensitive from the experience of the first "Three Tenors" concert in Rome. That event, timed to the 1990 World Cup finals and staged in the Baths of Caracalla before 8,000 spectators, was presented by an Italian concert manager, Mario Dradi of Bologna. The tenors, who had already turned away some 50 offers to sing together, agreed this time, they explained, as a way of celebrating the soccer championship and hailing Mr. Carreras's comeback after a near-fatal

bout with leukemia. Indeed, all three donated their portions of ticket revenues to charity.

Mr. Dradi, who declined to be interviewed, sold recording rights to Decca/London for a large fixed fee, which provided for no royalties to the artists. "We wanted to pay a royalty and share the risks," Roland Kommerell, Decca's president, said recently from his office in London. But Mr. Dradi rejected the offer in favor of a one-time payment that Mr. Kommerell described as "a horrendous mountain of risk" for the label. When, to almost everyone's amazement, the concert and the record emerged as a sensation, Decca reaped the profits.

"We got nothing," said Mr. Pavarotti, who has an exclusive recording contract with Decca. A deal was a deal, he maintained, and he had no complaints. But Mr. Domingo was furious and has ostracized Decca ever since. "Plácido suspects us of paying Pavarotti a royalty," Mr. Kommerell said. "He denied it and shrugged off the fracas." "We pushed the frontiers quite far," he said. "Now it's like the real-estate business."

The tenors were not about to make the same mistake four years later. This time, Mr. Rudas was the presenter. Born in Budapest in 1926, he studied voice and toured Europe singing in variety shows before establishing a dance studio in Australia. He took his "French style revues" to Las Vegas in 1963 and expanded into casino entertainment, including classical performances, in Atlantic City. In 1982, Mr. Rudas hooked up with Mr. Pavarotti, presenting him first in a tent in Atlantic City, then in recitals and arenas around the world.

Shrewdly, Mr. Rudas made the concerts attractive to television. "These TV shows brought him more and more to the crowd and away from the opera," Mr. Rudas recalled. "I just proved that he has another audience." Actually, Mr. Pavarotti had already been introduced to movie audiences in 1982 as a lovable Lothario in the film "Yes, Giorgio."

When the World Cup matches came to the United States for the first time in 1994, Mr. Rudas contracted with soccer authorities to provide the closing entertainment. With the arena locked up and Mr. Pavarotti in his stable, he was in position for his coup: the return of "The Three Tenors."

Mr. Rudas was still shy two tenors, but their promoter, Mr. Hoffmann, recognized that he had been outmaneuvered and could do little but allow his counterpart to put up the money and collect the profits. "Tibor Rudas is an old fox," he said admiringly.

Mr. Hoffmann's beginnings as a concert promoter did not go back as far as Mr. Rudas's, and his rise was more precipitous. Born in 1951 to two music teachers, he left the economics program at Mannheim University at 19 to organize what became the British Rock Meetings in Speyer, open-air concerts that drew crowds of 100,000 to hear Pink Floyd, Deep Purple and the Doors.

By the 80's, he had founded his own concert bureau in Mannheim. He met Mr. Carreras in the mid-80's and, drawing on his experiences as a rock promoter, booked him as a V.I.P., arranging for limousines, bodyguards and other trappings of celebrity, and taking out full-page ads in newspapers to announce his appearances.

"Half a year later," Mr. Hoffmann said, "José Carreras was a famous person in Germany." Word spread to Mr. Domingo, who also became a client. Then Mr. Carreras took ill, battling cancer. But after his striking recovery, he returned to the Hoffmann fold.

"My accomplishments as a promoter and the incredible international success I have the privilege of

enjoying with the 'Three Tenors' is sheery a result of these two men entrusting me with their remarkable talent and allowing me to work on their behalf," Mr. Hoffmann said. He put his company's annual gross at \$130 million.

Still, in 1990, he, like Mr. Rudas, was reduced to watching, amazed, as his clients catapulted to new fame as part of a trio in Rome. He was not resentful, he insisted. "I said I will have a huge benefit out of this. It was a changing of the classical concert business. I was happy, happy, happy."

Yet when Los Angeles beckoned four years later, he was too slow off the mark. "Let's face it," he said. "Rudas did his homework. He was the first to go to the football people in Los Angeles and say, 'Give me the rights.' I was not tough enough. But I was sure that when this is done and there should be another 'Three Tenors,' I must be the one."

The tenors, too, had learned their lesson. This time, they were paid

about \$1 million each plus royalties. The concert was recorded by Warner and telecast to more than 100 countries. Not surprisingly, given its runaway commercial as well as popular success, Mr. Pavarotti quickly rallied his partners for the world tour.

Finally, it was Mr. Hoffmann's turn. But he was sobered to learn that Mr. Rudas's 1994 contracts with Warner barred lucrative recording or international telecasting rights until 1998.

The tenors, for their part, were dismayed to learn that Mr. Mehta's bookings left him unavailable to conduct, and they talked of postponing the tour. "Postpone it?" Mr. Hoffmann responded. After he had gotten all three together? Soon they all endorsed Mr. Levine.

Mr. Hoffmann had other aces up his sleeve. Arguing that a "Three Tenors" concert would bring a commercial windfall wherever it might alight, he played off arena against arena, angling for the best terms and

winning rent-free stadium space in three European cities.

The Giants Stadium concert, moreover, will be carried to a potential audience of hundreds of thousands on pay-per-view television at \$30 per viewing. Domestic telecasts in the other countries visited are also planned. Additional commercial opportunities include sales of programs and souvenirs and payments from sponsors and "media partners."

Working around crowded opera and recital calendars, Mr. Hoffmann and the tenors agreed last fall on a five-city tour with stops this summer in Tokyo, London, New York and Munich and next March in Melbourne. A sixth was wedged in this July in Vienna.

But in recent weeks the schedule has grown more hectic, with the added concerts in Göteborg and Düsseldorf, and another under discussion for Johannesburg. A concert is planned for New Year's Eve in an undisclosed city.

BY GEORGE

BY JEANETTE K. BRILL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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- 32 Tree in a thicket
- 35 Secret device
- 36 Kind of visa
- 38 Envelope abbr.
- 39 Match for Seles
- 40 Clave
- 42 Previously
- 43 Fishing net
- 44 Title song from a 1933 Gershwin musical
- 45 Like Ovid's "The Art of Love"
- 46 Have a second session
- 47 Flower display
- 48 Three-time A.L. batting champ
- 49 Gershwin ballad from "The Goldwyn Follies"
- 50 Prefix with lateral
- 51 Progress steadily
- 54 Hikers' woes
- 55 Office time
- 56 Demean
- 58 Protected from the sun
- 62 Fitch and muskrat
- 63 Good times
- 64 Field
- 65 Tried hard
- 66 The silent type
- 68 Droplet
- 69 Mr. Rogers
- 71 Split
- 72 Unwanted looks
- 75 Stick
- 77 Wall Street villain
- 78 Getaway
- 79 Some schools
- 79 Mitto's "immortal"
- 80 Takes in
- 81 A Massey
- 83 Many a John Wayne film
- 84 "The Wizard of Oz" actor and family
- 87 Made the grade
- 89 Hardly shy
- 89 With defects and all
- 93 Unsparring
- 95 Tyreme gear
- 96 Stew
- 97 Chilling
- 98 Perfume ingredient
- 99 Somewhat
- 101 Eis's counterpart
- 103 Ferris wheel operator
- 105 Like some lines
- 106 Copyist
- 107 Actress Barbara Bel
- 109 "Chicago Hope" actress
- 111 Half a famous comedy duo
- 112 By oneself
- 113 Fore-and-after
- 114 Was without, briefly
- 115 Feudal estate
- 116 Get a load of
- 117 Position to fill
- 118 R.B.I. or E.R.A.
- 120 Even, to Yvonne
- 122 Mary mins.
- 123 Verily
- 125 Otto I's domain: Abbr.
- 126 Calif. touchdown site
- 127 Int. trading assn.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALLIANCE BINGO ATILITY TOY
 FERRA CALLES SARAH BAILE
 ADRIAN KATINA STANLEY BAILE
 IDEAL KATINA STANLEY BAILE
 IRENE KATINA STANLEY BAILE
 ROBERTO WIN ENTIRE
 OR LATITO SONS
 ANDERSON GIBSON WARR
 PEACOCKS TIE WARR
 WORMS ANGLER SNAKE SNAKE
 WOMANLINE HAY MERRICKA
 MORE BAD CLAIR
 GOVERNMENT MAN PUTTING
 WHEEL BAN SLIDE WIFE
 AILES STAIR YIPES SIDS
 WOP FORGET YIPES SIDS
 CIFA YVESIAN
 BRENITS ENT BROTHBL
 CALL TRE GASSOPHOM
 ABLE ANTISE ELLIS BLIN
 RAJIN CANEA ELLIS BLIN
 DREID ONREAT TOME SIE

مكتبة الأصيل

Turkey
 REPORT
 1st prize: Sa
 2nd prize: Sa
 3rd prize: Sa

Turkey's Jewish community lives on

Every Saturday a quorum-plus of Istanbul Jews drives across the bridge over the Bosphorus. They cross from the European side of the city to a suburb on the Asian side for Sabbath services. Although nominally Orthodox, by driving on the Sabbath they breach Jewish law but do so in order to preserve Jewish heritage.

"There are two very old and beautiful synagogues there, but no Jews live in the area anymore," says Suzan Tarablus, editor of the Turkish Jewish weekly, *Shalom*.

"The same people travel across every Saturday to keep the synagogues working. In summer they pray in one, in winter in the other."

Tarablus was one of the journalists accompanying Turkish president Suleyman Demirel on his visit to Israel last week. Also in Demirel's party were six representatives of Turkey's Jewish community, including the first Jewish member of parliament in 38 years, Jeffy Kamhi.

The attempt to breathe life into the old synagogues is part of an uphill fight by a shrinking Jewish community to nurture its rich tradition. The flowering of the Jewish presence in the Ottoman Empire dates from the arrival of expellees from the Iberian peninsula five centuries ago.

After 1948, there was a massive outflow when 120,000 Turkish Jews left for Israel. The week before last Demirel visited Bat Yam, where many of them live, and was engulfed by an enthusiastic crowd which he addressed in Turkish. "He was so moved," says Tarablus, "that he declared 'I am a Bat Yamer.'"

Some 25,000 Jews remain in Turkey, of whom 22,000 live in Istanbul and 2,500 in Izmir. Most are from old families but there are also some 3,000-4,000 Ashkenazi Jews of more recent origin.

The Ashkenazim have their own rabbis but they do not have a separate communal structure, being integrated into the Sephardi-dominated community. "They intermingle and intermarry," says Tarablus.

There is also intermarriage outside the faith.



"The Turkish president was so moved," says Suzan Tarablus, "that he declared 'I am a Bat Yamer.'"

"About 25 percent of marriages are now with Christians and Moslems." In addition, many young people leave for the US and some for Israel. The Jewish community in Turkey is a dying community.

There is, however, life in it yet. The economic condition of the Jews is robust. In recent years an increasing number are choosing to enter into professions rather than go into family businesses. About 20 percent of children attend Jewish schools and many of the remainder continue to belong to Jewish clubs into their mid-thirties.

There are 16 operating synagogues in Istanbul alone even though the Jews are better termed traditional than religious.

Tarablus's newspaper is in Turkish but each issue also contains a page in Ladino, the traditional language of Turkish Jewry. The paper,

with a circulation of 4,500, is self-supporting. "We get lots of advertisements from Moslems who see the Jews as people who have money to spend."

Tarablus, who speaks good Hebrew, lived in Israel for two years in the early 1970s shortly after her marriage.

"It was the Yom Kippur War that made us decide to go back."

"I was pregnant and I was shocked by the war. I felt that I wasn't born to live in a country so accustomed to war. [But] I was very unhappy about going back. I came here often on behalf of my newspaper and to visit family."

The rise of Islam in Turkey - most notably the surprisingly strong showing in the recent elections by the Islamic Welfare Party, which came close to participation in a coalition government - is worrying, admits Tarablus.

Islamic candidates have attacked Jews as economic exploiters. When parliament was asked to approve Kamhi joining Demirel's delegation to Israel - a routine request, normally approved without opposition whenever a parliamentarian is invited to join an official delegation going abroad - several Islamic members voted against.

Nevertheless, says Tarablus, when she interviewed leaders of the Welfare Party and asked whether they would seek to sever relations with Israel if they formed a government, they replied that the policy of the state would not change.

When Islamic candidates have won local elections in areas with a Jewish community, she says, one of their first moves has been to call on the local chief rabbi as a gesture of respect.

"Still, as a Jew and a Turk, it's not nice to have a religious party at the end of the 20th century," says Tarablus. "They won 21 percent of the vote [more than any other party]. On the other hand that means that 79 percent didn't vote for them."

"I'm not worried anymore that there might be an Islamic victory in Turkey. Secularism is too deeply rooted by now," she says.

Talking Turkey

Israel is now kosher enough in the Moslem context for Turkey to court it openly, reports Abraham Rabinovich

ALMOST unnoticed in the recent media-fest following the Sbarro-Sheikh conference was the visit by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to the Israel Aircraft Industries plant where 54 Turkish Phantoms are to be upgraded.

The \$650 million deal concluded last August not only constitutes a major economic boost to the company - which beat strong American competition for the contract; it is a political achievement for Israel of no small measure.

The decision by an important Moslem country to entrust a significant part of its armaments to Israeli upgrading may be a more eloquent acknowledgment of Israel's firm presence in the region than any number of speeches about peace can ever be.

Although Turkey wears its Moslem identity lightly, and has had diplomatic relations with Israel since 1949, until now it had always avoided any overly warm embrace with the Jewish state.

The onset of the peace process has changed this dramatically. Within one month of the start of the Madrid conference five years ago, Demirel, who was then serving a term as prime minister, moved to upgrade diplomatic relations with Israel from the level of legations to embassies. The Oslo agreements two years ago

led to even more dramatic changes, rendering Israel kosher enough in the Moslem context for Turkey to be seen with it freely in public.

Since the Oslo accords were reached, there have been diplomatic visits between Israel and Turkey at the highest level. During the past year alone bilateral trade has more than doubled, and the two countries are now discussing mutual problems - read, Syria - like potential allies.

The possibility of joint military exercises was reportedly discussed during a recent visit to Israel by the Turkish deputy chief of staff and the Phantom deal itself clearly reflects a significantly new level of ease between the two countries.

During his visit - the first by a Turkish president - Demirel signed four economic agreements, including a free-trade pact which will see tariffs between the two countries eliminated by the year 2000. (The spectacular emergence of Turkey as an Israeli tourist haven, while not in itself a direct result of political developments, does also serve to help cement relations.)

Water has been the most talked-about subject on the Israeli-Turkish agenda but many experts believe it unlikely that Israelis will ever drink Turkish water except for those who go there on

holiday. Even if the much talked-of "peace pipeline" via Syria were commercially feasible, Israel would be uneasy about dependence on a source which could be cut at whim by Damascus.

Shipment of water by boat from Turkey would cost more than desalination, say Israeli officials.

But the two countries have demonstrated that they can be of use to each other politically. Israeli ambassadors in all European Union countries were instructed by Jerusalem to call on their Turkish counterparts to offer help in Turkey's efforts to win entry to the customs union of the EU by mobilizing opinion makers.

Turkey, in turn, has been taking up Israel's case in outlying Moslem countries like Pakistan and Indonesia, according to officials in Jerusalem.

And, as a reminder that democracy is one thing the two countries do share, the day after the recent closely run elections in Turkey, Jerusalem received a request from Ankara for details about the rotation agreement between Likud and Labor in 1984.

The agreement subsequently worked out by the leaders of the two Turkish right-wing parties was based on what is even now known there as "the Israeli model."

Effect of inadmissible evidence in criminal trial

LAW REPORT
ASHER FELIX LANDAU

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a Court of Criminal Appeals, before justices Dov Levin, Gavriel Bach, Elyahu Mazza, Mishael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir, in the matter of the State of Israel, appellants, versus Yoram Abutbul, respondent (F.H.C) 188/94.

ABUTBUL was convicted in the Tel Aviv District Court of rape and other offenses. He appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground that inadmissible evidence of a polygraph test undergone by the complainant, had been wrongly admitted at his trial, and should have influenced the result. The court, by majority decision, allowed the appeal (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 10, 1994), and the court president acceded to the state's request to order a rehearing.

JUSTICE ZAMIR, delivering the first judgment of the court, dealt first with the interpretation of section 56 of the Evidence Ordinance (New Version) of 1971. It provides that no judgment in a criminal trial shall be based on inadmissible evidence admitted by error or inadvertence; nevertheless, the judgment shall not be invalidated by an appeal court "unless, in the opinion of the court, the accused would not have been convicted if such evidence had not been given, or there was no other sufficient evidence to support conviction."

After a close analysis of the sec-

tion, and citing precedents, he held that either of the tests laid down was sufficient for invalidating the conviction. The English original, repeated above, used the word "or," and section 34(21) of amendment 39 to the Penal Law of 1977 required a criminal statutory provision to be construed in favor of a defendant.

The first test was subjective. The appeal court had to ask itself whether the trial court would have convicted the defendant were it not for the inadmissible evidence. The second test was objective, requiring the appeal court itself to weigh the evidence, without reference to the opinion of the trial court.

The question, whether the trial court would have convicted the defendant but for the inadmissible evidence involved many factors. A professional judge, as distinguished from a lay jury, was presumed to have excluded inadmissible evidence from his considerations. The mere fact, therefore, of his having mentioned it in his judgment did not mean he had relied upon it.

On the other hand, the presumption was not absolute, and could be contradicted. Moreover, inadmissible evidence on a minor subsidiary issue would have had less influence than that relating to a vital issue in the case.

Another factor was section 215 of the Criminal Procedure Law (Consolidated Version) of 1982, which empowered an appeal court to dismiss an appeal even if it accepted a particular submission, if the defendant suffered no prejudice. Justice Zamir also raised the pos-

sibility that even if the first test in section 56 was established, the court was not obliged to dispose of the case finally; the desirable course was to set the trial court's judgment aside, and remit the case to it for reconsideration excluding any reference to the inadmissible evidence.

Citing precedents, he held the degree of proof necessary to establish each of the elements in section 56 was beyond reasonable doubt, as applicable in criminal cases. If, therefore, it was reasonably possible that the trial court relied on inadmissible evidence, or that there was no other sufficient evidence to support the conviction, the trial court's judgment should be set aside.

In this particular case, Justice Zamir was satisfied that the trial court, notwithstanding the reference in its judgment to the polygraph test, did not take this evidence into account. Moreover, it was clear, in his view, that there was ample other evidence to support the conviction. He proposed, therefore, that the appeal court's first judgment be set aside, that Abutbul's conviction be confirmed, and that the Supreme Court pass sentence afresh after hearing counsel's submissions.

JUSTICE CHESHIN adhered to his original opinion that Abutbul's appeal be dismissed. The path laid down by the legislature in section 56, he said, was quite clear. In his opinion, even the slightest causal connection between the inadmissible evidence and the conviction invalidated the trial court's judgment. In that event, the appeal court was to decide whether the other evi-

dence sufficiently supported the conviction. If it didn't, the defendant was to be acquitted. If it did, the appeal court could either confirm the conviction, or remit the case to the trial court if justice so required.

If there was no connection at all between the inadmissible evidence and the conviction, the court would examine the admissible evidence, and the defendant's submissions, in the ordinary way. He added that the appeal court could also reverse the

order, and consider first if there was sufficient admissible evidence for a conviction. If there wasn't, that ended the matter.

He agreed with the presumption that the trial judge disregarded inadmissible evidence, but warned

against relying too heavily on this feature. He also differed from Justice Zamir as to remitting the case to the lower court being the most desirable course.

First of two parts

THE JERUSALEM POST

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3rd prize: Nadine Kameh, Kfar Saba

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, March 25, 1996

Abeles: Procaccia Report is lopsided

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Procaccia Report's claims that some banks heavily overcharged kibbutzim for loans is a lopsided document based on ambiguous legal parameters, Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles charged yesterday.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the government should not discuss the report before it has been professionally scrutinized by the Bank of Israel and the Treasury's legal department.

Interior Security Minister Moshe Shalal and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret both demanded in the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday that a commission of inquiry look into the findings of the Procaccia Report.

Speaking at a conference on banking organized by Ma'ariv, Abeles said the importance of the Procaccia Report was exaggerated out of considerations linked to the primaries.

He said he is opposed to the creation of an official committee to investigate the banks' alleged overcharging of kibbutz debt.

Abeles said the claims should be examined in court.

Commenting on the same issue, Treasury director general David Brodet said the Treasury will react to the report after the banks' contradictory reports are published.

Brodet agreed with Abeles that the legal opinion is one-sided.

The 700-page Procaccia legal opinion was published last week, several days before the banks,

kibbutzim and Treasury initiated the kibbutz debt arrangement agreement.

The report was conducted by a group of experts headed by Uriel Procaccia. They were hired by the Settlement Headquarters, which has long contended that banks had charged the kibbutzim illegal fees.

Tei Aviv University Economics Prof. Amir Barnea, who is also an owner in the Singer Barnea investment firm and plans to publish a report on behalf of the banks, emphasized that the opinion gives an extensive and general interpretation of specific court verdicts.

According to Barnea, the report "does not contain anything which is associated with the kibbutz system - with the exception of two pages in the introduction, which discussed Procaccia's public and Zionist belief regarding the kibbutz sectors weight in the Israeli economy and their importance."

"And with the exception of three pages in the summary, which also do not discuss details, and refer to three kibbutzim to which legal assumptions are applied in order to see what will happen to the debt. With the exception of these three pages, there is nothing in the 700-page report that gives any specific reference to the kibbutzim."

Barnea criticized the press for having given the Procaccia Report "exaggerated coverage." He also criticized the Bank of Israel and the commercial banks for failing to respond to the report.

Italy's largest insurer to buy Migdal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ASSICURIZIONI Generali, Italy's largest insurer, is in advanced negotiations with Bank Leumi to gain major control of Migdal, Israel's largest insurance company, sources close to the companies said yesterday.

Heads of Generali arrived here yesterday to negotiate the purchase with Bank Leumi general manager Galia Maor and Bank Leumi chairman of the Board Eitan Raff. The visit follows Maor and Raff's visit to Italy several weeks ago.

A Bank Leumi spokesman said the Generali representatives arrived in Israel to negotiate with

companies other than Leumi. A Generali spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Negotiations between the two companies began several months ago at the request of Generali, which currently controls 27% of Migdal.

Sources close to the company said Generali is trying to avoid the entrance of another partner in the company.

Bank Leumi is required to reduce its holdings in Migdal and its parent company, Africa Israel, to 25 percent by the end of

December - in line with the Brodet Committee's recommendations concerning the banks' non-financial holdings.

Insurance sources estimate Migdal's value at more than NIS 1 billion.

Bank Leumi Holdings and Africa Israel Insurance currently control about 68% of Migdal's shares.

Another 5% of the company's shares are owned by Migdal's South African founders.

Generali controls 86 different companies in 40 countries. At the end of 1996, its overall assets were valued at about \$65b.



Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz sign the public sector pension plan yesterday. The agreement, which preserves the rights of veteran workers, averted a nationwide strike.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

A conference of central banks on risk management will take place today and tomorrow at the Laromne Hotel in Jerusalem. Cosponsored by Quantitative Financial Software and Yield Enhancement Strategists, the conference will focus on the role of central banks and governments in risk management and oversight of bank examination in capital markets. Representatives from the National Bank of Belgium, the Reserve Bank of India, the Bank of Israel, the Central Bank of Jordan, and the national banks of several African nations, including Rwanda, will be among the participants. Jennifer Friedlin

American Technion Society receives fundraising award: The American Technion Society received the "Award for Excellence in Fund-raising" from the National Society of Fundraising Executives this week.

The university's American office registered a cumulative growth of 218 percent in the last decade and is considered one of the fastest-growing fund-raising organizations in the US. Between 1991 and the end of 1996, it was expected to raise \$250 million, and it plans to raise another \$180m. by 1999. Marilyn Henry

Bezeq-Kol, the Bezeq subsidiary, will supply telephone equipment and communications systems for 100,000 phone extensions at kibbutzim around the country. This was announced at a meeting yesterday attended by officials of the kibbutz movements.

Bezeq-Kol managing director Yosef Jungman said he regards the deal as very important and that the prices were set with special conditions for the kibbutz movements. The agreement will include the supply of advanced telecommunications services, including data transfer, video-conferencing, and local area networks. Judy Siegel

Koor Industries has purchased another 0.6 percent of Machteshim Chemical Works stock capital in a transaction outside of the stock exchange for NIS 6.4 million, increasing its share in the company to 67.12%. Earlier this week, the company purchased 1.2% of the firm's stock capital in two separate stock capital transactions outside the stock exchange. The company refused to reveal the seller's name. Galit Lipkis Beck

WORLD BRIEFS

Gulf Air to delay deal for four Airbus A320 planes: Regional carrier Gulf Air, owned by four Gulf Arab governments, is to delay the purchase of four Airbus Industrie A320 aircraft on order for another two to three years, an airline official said over the weekend. "We are restructuring the delivery of four A320s, which are supposed to be delivered in June [1996] for another two to three years to reduce losses," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Gulf Air is jointly owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi emirate in the United Arab Emirates. Reuter

Egypt offers 90% of chocolate firm: The Egyptian state said yesterday it was selling off 90 percent of the equity of public-sector firm Alexandria Confectionery and Chocolate. Bousayna Mostafa, head of the privatization sector at the state's Holding Company for Food Industries, said the buyer must not change the nature of the company's business or make any employees redundant for at least three years. The remaining 10% of equity will be held by company employees.

The company said the closing date for tenders was May 20 and all offers must be accompanied by a \$2.5 million guarantee. Reuter

Iran sees progress on huge gas field by end of year: A British-Iranian engineering study to tap one of the world's biggest gas fields offshore Iran is on schedule and will be completed by the end of the year, an Iranian oil manager said yesterday. The \$12 million design contract, carried out by Britain's John Brown Engineering and an Iranian partner, is the starting point for the South Pars gas field development project launched to meet Iran's growing gas needs in the next decade.

"It is planned to complete the engineering [design] work within eight months," a manager at the Iranian state-owned Petroleum Development and Engineering Company (PEDEC) said in a telephone interview from Tehran. PEDEC is a wholly-owned affiliate of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and was given the main \$900 million South Pars contract in 1994 after an international consortium led by Italy's TPL failed to raise \$1.5 billion in financing needed for the field's first phase development. Reuter

Egypt, IMF begin talks on economic reforms

'Closure deserves in-depth discussion'

Jerusalem Post Staff

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began formal talks yesterday aimed at further liberalizing Cairo's state-run economy and promoting private and foreign investment, official newspapers said.

Cabinet officials said the fund's regional representative Abdel Shakour Shalala would meet Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri, and the newspapers said he would also see Central Bank Governor Ismail Hassan.

Egypt hopes this round of talks will end with the fund's approval

of its slow-moving reform program, which Cairo's Paris Club creditors have linked to writing-off a \$4 billion debt.

The Club of official creditors has already waived \$6b. of Egypt's debts, and the hoped-for waiver would save the government \$200 million in annual debt service.

But Shalala, who arrived in Cairo late on Friday, has said the debt waiver was not on the agenda.

Two weeks ago, Shalala and the fund's Middle East director Paul Charbier met Ganzouri to set

the agenda for these technical talks, which are expected to last three to four weeks.

The negotiations were to start in January, but both sides agreed to put them off until the new Egyptian government, which took office in early January, had settled in.

Since January, the new government has embarked on an intensive program of economic change. It has removed some of the deterrents to investment, introduced new incentives, cut the customs duty on some capital goods and reformed the housing law.

The cabinet has also promised a wave of sell-offs and partial flotations of several state-run firms on the Egyptian stock exchange within weeks.

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday demanded that the government discuss "in depth" the economic implications of the closure currently imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shohat said the issue demands the preparation of professional papers. These would aid the decision-making echelons as they make policy on the closure and its impact on economic conditions both in Israel and in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Administration.

Shohat instructed Treasury Director General David Brodet to prepare working papers with the Civil Administration.

This preparatory work will compare the consequences of full and partial closures, look into the consequences of limiting passage of goods to either imports or exports exclusively, and examine options for supply of raw materials to Palestinian sub-contractors.

Shohat said he agreed that providing full security came first, but the closure nevertheless required an in-depth discussion by the government.

Dead Sea Works posts 25.5% rise in annual net earnings to NIS 110 million

Fourth quarter net profits also jump, from NIS 13m. to NIS 22m.

RACHEL NEIMAN

DEAD Sea Works posted a 25.5 percent rise in annual net profits to NIS 110.26 million from NIS 87.82m. in 1994.

Annual revenues went up to NIS 1.135 billion from NIS 927.67m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.38 from NIS 0.31.

Fourth quarter net profits jumped to NIS 22m. from NIS 13m. Quarterly revenues rose to NIS 282m. from NIS 196m. during the same period in 1994.

Quarterly turnover for the potash division went up to NIS 244m. from NIS 165m.

The change in dollar exchange rate relative to CPI gave rise to a delayed tax benefit of NIS 9.3m.

Last year, the company contracted with Volkswagen to establish a jointly held magnesium reclamation plant, of which Dead Sea Works will own 65%.

Dead Sea Works will invest

\$350m. in the first stage of the project.

As part of the agreement, Volkswagen will invest DM 50m. in a Ben-Gurion University magnesium research institute.

Dead Sea Works invested NIS 678m. in upgrade and development in 1995 as compared with NIS 490m. in 1994.

More than NIS 21m. was in upgrading the salt works, NIS

126m. went to a new diesel turbo-generator power plant, NIS 410m. to the ferrous magnesium plant and NIS 64m. in expanding the potash works' output.

Dead Sea Works, a 89% subsidiary of Israel Chemicals, ceased to be a fully owned government company last year with the purchase of a majority stake in ICL by the Israel Corporation and the Eisenberg group.

Today, 69% of Dead Sea Works shares are traded on the TASE.

Africa Israel's net profits double

COMPANY RESULTS RACHEL NEIMAN

AFRICA Israel Hotels' 1995 net profits doubled to NIS 12.28 million from NIS 6.5m. in 1994.

Revenues rose to NIS 175.76m. from NIS 152.17m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 0.22 from NIS 0.12.

Fourth quarter net profits fell to NIS 1.6m. from NIS 2m. during the same period in 1994 on revenues of NIS 44.7m. from NIS 41.7m.

The company operates five hotels, including the Holiday Inn franchise and the Tiberies Hot Springs Spa. Occupancy rates of Africa Israel hotels rose 9.7%, as compared with the national average of 5.4%.

Dan Hotels suffered a decrease in annual net profits to NIS 6.4m. from NIS 16.33m.

Revenues rose to NIS 349m. from NIS 315.35m., while earnings per share plunged to NIS 0.25 from NIS 0.64.

The drop was due to a weak fourth quarter during which the company suffered losses of NIS 8.2. In 1995 from gains of NIS 1.5m. in the parallel 1994 period. Reasons for the poor showing were the gap in the dollar-shekel exchange rate in relation to CPI, and to NIS 6.9m. in costs relating to the new Dan Eliat which opened in November 1995.

Posidon Industries posted annual net profits of NIS 2m., compared with net losses of NIS 21.85m. in 1994.

Annual revenues rose to NIS 79.7m. from NIS 78.3m. Growth was attributed to increased activity in the areas of fish, rice, and oil.

The company deals primarily in the manufacture and marketing of canned fish, which represented 56% of 1995 annual turnover, up from 54% in 1994.

The company pointed out that the abatement of a 20% tax on tuna imports from the US and a tariff reduction on European Union imports from \$1.20 per kilogram to \$0.20 might significantly affect imports from the Far East, where the tax level remains at 20%.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.3.96)			
Currency (deposits for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.500	4.625	5.000
French franc (€100,000)	4.250	4.250	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.575	0.575	0.625
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.3.96)			
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.450	3.510	3.484
German mark	3.080	3.155	3.020
French franc	2.071	2.108	2.114
Japanese yen (100)	4.704	4.780	4.765
Dutch guilder	0.837	0.855	0.837
Swedish krona	2.874	2.917	2.867
Australian dollar	1.807	1.808	1.811
Canadian dollar	2.583	2.608	2.583
Swiss franc	0.481	0.483	0.483
Norwegian krona	0.478	0.484	0.483
Danish krone	0.834	0.841	0.834
Finnish mark	0.856	0.874	0.856
Caribbean dollar	2.250	2.252	2.252
Australian dollar	2.382	2.420	2.382
S. African rand	0.717	0.744	0.717
Belgian franc (10)	1.076	1.084	1.076
Austrian schilling (10)	2.940	2.962	2.940
Indian Ru (100)	1.959	1.975	1.959
Jordanian dinar			1.872
Egyptian pound			4.467
ECU	3.849	3.888	3.849
Irish punt	4.835	4.915	4.835
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